



INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

By video conference – The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCx9vXkywflJr0LUVkKnYWQ>

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that Dufferin County resides within the traditional territory and ancestral lands of the Tionontati (Petun), Attawandaron (Neutral), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe peoples.

We also acknowledge that various municipalities within the County of Dufferin reside within the treaty lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and two of the Williams Treaties of 1818: Treaty 18: the Nottawasaga Purchase, and Treaty 19: The Ajetance Treaty.

These traditional territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

Roll Call

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

To submit your request to ask a question, please contact us at info@dufferincounty.ca or 519-941-2816 x2500 prior to 4:30 p.m. on September 21, 2022.

REPORTS

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – September 22, 2022 – ITEM #1
Rural Water Quality Program Contract Extension

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated September 22,
Infrastructure & Environmental Services Committee Agenda – September 22, 2022

2022, to seek approval to extend the delivery agreement for one year between Dufferin County and the Grand River Conservation Authority to administer the Rural Water Quality Program.

Recommendation:

THAT Report, Rural Water Quality Program Contract Extension, dated September 22, 2022, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

AND THAT the Dufferin County renew the current agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority to deliver the Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program on the County's behalf for one year to December 31, 2023.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – September 22, 2022 – ITEM #2 Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team Minutes – August 25, 2022

Minutes from the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team meeting on August 25, 2022.

Recommendation:

THAT the minutes of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team meeting of August 25, 2022, be adopted.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – September 22, 2022 – ITEM #3 Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated September 22, 2022, to present the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County owned former rail corridor trail and the Dufferin County Forest.

Recommendation:

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan, dated September 22, 2022, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

AND THAT the Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan be approved;

AND THAT staff be directed to update the applicable by-law in accordance with the approved plan.

Next Meeting

To be determined



REPORT TO COMMITTEE

To: Chair Brown and Members of Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee

From: Scott C. Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Meeting Date: September 22, 2022

Subject: Rural Water Quality Program Contract Extension

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities:

Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure (SEI)- protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive and supportive community (ISC) – support efforts to address current and future needs for a livable community

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the delivery agreement for one year between Dufferin County and the Grand River Conservation Authority to administer the Rural Water Quality Program.

Background & Discussion

Since 2012, Dufferin County has partnered with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) to deliver stewardship programs encouraging landowners to implement projects to protect water quality and enhance natural resources on their property. Outreach, financial and technical assistance are offered through the municipally-funded Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP) and other funding initiatives.

The GRCA currently administers and delivers a RWQP on behalf of Haldimand, Brant, Wellington and Dufferin counties and the Region of Waterloo. Through multi-year program agreements, these municipalities provide funding to GRCA for distribution to landowners as cost-share grants to support approved water quality improvement projects. These county-wide programs are administered by the Grand River Conservation Authority and delivered by local conservation authorities outside the Grand River watershed.

Combined municipal contributions of \$740,000 from all participating municipalities have been committed in 2022 to offset landowner project costs. The GRCA levy supports program staff and administration costs for delivery of these programs. RWQP cost share rates vary by project type and funding source. Depending on the program, eligible projects may include stream fencing, erosion control structures, decommissioning private water wells, manure storage, nutrient management planning, cover crops, tree planting and others. RWQP projects help reduce nutrient, sediment and chemicals losses to the environment. Projects also provide environmental, economic and social benefits by building soil health, improving resilience to extreme weather events, sequestering carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting source water, providing recreational activities, and fostering biodiversity.

Additional project funding is leveraged and delivered to landowners across the watershed using the stewardship program delivery framework. The GRCA currently delivers funding programs on behalf of Forests Ontario, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk and the Environment and Climate Change Canada - Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund in partnership with Conservation Ontario. Since 1998 the RWQP has delivered over \$22 million of cost share to help landowners implement more than 7,300 voluntary projects to improve and protect water quality across the watershed. In addition to the funding provided by municipalities and partner agencies, landowners contributed \$39 million towards the projects for a total investment of over \$61 million.

Dufferin RWQP

Following a one-time \$50,000 contribution to support a Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program in 2012, Dufferin County renewed support for the program in 2017 with a 5-year commitment. Since 2012, the Dufferin RWQP has provided \$648,000 in grant to support 225 projects. Dufferin County provided \$150,000 in grant with the remainder coming for other conservation authority delivered programs. Landowners contributed over \$200,000 of their own cash and in-kind to these projects for a total investment of more than \$850,000. In the 2022 budget, \$40,000 was committed to the RWQP. This county-wide program is administered by the Grand River Conservation Authority and supported by stewardship staff of the five local Conservation Authorities. Program administration and GRCA staff delivery costs are supported from levy.

The current 5-year Dufferin RWQP delivery agreement with the GRCA will expire at the end of 2022. The agreement defines the terms and responsibilities of the GRCA as administrator of the programs. Dufferin Staff have proposed renewing the delivery agreements with GRCA for an additional 5 years, subject to annual budget approval. Working in partnership with the GRCA, staff are exploring the expansion of the eligible

activities covered under the RWQP using a climate change lens. Rather than enter into a five-year agreement with the GRCA at this time, it is recommended that the current agreement be renewed for a term of one year.

Furthermore, under the Conservation Authorities Act, stewardship programs are not a mandatory conservation authority program, but can be provided as a service to municipalities. As such, the RWQP has been identified as a municipally requested service in GRCA's Inventory of Programs and Services. GRCA must enter into agreements with municipalities to deliver municipally requested programs. Agreements will be negotiated in 2023 and must be in place by January 1, 2024. Delivery of the RWQP will be included in these new agreements, along with any changes to the current program. To ensure there is no interruption to RWQP delivery in the interim, it is recommended that the current program delivery agreements be renewed for a term of one year (to December 31, 2023).

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

The 2023 budget will include \$40,000 for the Dufferin RWQP program.

Recommendation

THAT Report, Rural Water Quality Program Contract Extension, dated September 22, 2022, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

AND THAT the Dufferin County renew the current agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority to deliver the Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program on the County's behalf for one year to December 31, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott C. Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Prepared by:

Sara MacRae
Manager of Climate & Energy

Attachment: Draft RWQP Agreement

This Agreement made this day of 2022

B E T W E E N:

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN
(hereinafter called "the County")

-and-

THE GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(hereinafter called the " the GRCA")

WHEREAS the County wishes to engage the GRCA to deliver a Rural Water Quality Programme (hereinafter called “the grant programme” or "the programme") in accordance with this agreement.

NOW THEREFORE WITNESSETH that in consideration of the covenants contained herein, the County and the GRCA mutually agree as follows:

1. Retainer

The County hereby retains the services of the GRCA to administer and deliver the Grant Programme and the GRCA hereby agrees to provide the services set out herein (hereinafter referred to as “the services”).

2. Services of the GRCA

(a) The GRCA agrees to provide services to administer the grant programme under which the GRCA will deliver financial incentives to eligible rural property owners within Dufferin County to assist them to institute safeguards and to take other measures to improve surface and subsurface water quality. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the services shall include the following:

(i) Meeting of Local Commodity Groups

The GRCA will convene meeting(s) of local commodity groups to provide those groups with information about the goals and objectives of the grant programme and its scheduling.

(ii) Preparation and Maintenance of Programme Guidelines

The GRCA in will develop and maintain grant programme guidelines for review and approval by Dufferin County. These guidelines will provide details of the grant programme structure and shall include a description of the eligible measures, the financial incentives available in respect of each measure, eligibility criteria, the application process, and project implementation & follow-up provisions.

(iii) Promotion & Marketing Strategy

The GRCA will prepare a broad promotion and marketing strategy for the grant programme. This strategy will identify some of the main activities required to disseminate information about the programme and generate interest in the programme, and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

(iv) Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

The GRCA will monitor the success of the grant programme on an ongoing basis, primarily by noting the number of best management practices which are implemented as a result of the grant programme. Water quality improvement will be estimated by applying the mathematical model for the prediction of phosphorus levels known as phosphorus accounting.

(v) Grant Programme Management

The GRCA shall assign its Manager of Water Resources as the programme director for this contract and shall assign the Supervisor of Conservation Outreach as the programme co-ordinator for this contract. Neither staff assignment shall be changed without the approval of the County, provided that the GRCA shall be entitled to designate other individuals to occupy a vacated position in the event that either individual leaves the employ of the GRCA. The programme director shall have overall responsibility for the operation of the programme, however the programme co-ordinator shall be responsible for all day-to-day contacts, promotion & marketing, monitoring the implementation specific projects for which grants are approved, preparation and presentation of applications, and the provision of on-site technical assistance to landowners.

(vi) Administrative Services

The GRCA shall provide all administrative services necessary to support the programme. These services shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, staffing, accounting, contract management, budgeting, office space, vehicles and other complementary services such as telephone, photocopying and computer facilities which are normally associated with the operation of an office and a programme such as the one described in this agreement.

(b) The GRCA shall use current state of the art principles and shall skilfully perform its services pursuant to this agreement using skilled and competent staff under the supervision of a senior member of the staff of the GRCA.

(c) Additional services may be added into this agreement upon the agreement of each of the parties hereto, and not otherwise.

(d) Where any of the work done pursuant to this agreement would require an approval to be obtained, the GRCA shall apply for such approval as part of its responsibilities hereunder.

3. Governance of the Grant Programme

(a) The overall development and oversight of the grant programme shall be entrusted to a Steering Committee comprised of the following members:

1. Dufferin County Clerk or designate
2. GRCA Manager of Water Resources
3. GRCA Supervisor of Conservation Outreach or designate
4. NVCA Healthy Waters Programme Coordinator or designate
5. CVC Agricultural Outreach Senior Coordinator or designate

(b) Grant applications shall be recieved by staff of the GRCA or local Conservation Authority (Nottawasaga, Credit Valley, Toronto Region, Saugeen) and shall be presented to the Wellington Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee for consideration (hereinafter referred to as “the Review Committee”)

(c) Grant applications shall be processed and presented to the Review Committee in a format which does not reveal, to the extent reasonably possible, the identity of the Grant Applicant.

(c) The Review Committee shall have the authority to approve grant applications. In the event that a grant applicant is dissatisfied with a decision of the Review Committee, the grant applicant shall be entitled to one appeal to the Steering Committee for a rejected project where the appeal is based

on additional information not presented with the initial application.

4. Rules of Procedure

- (a) The Review Committee shall adopt such rules of procedure as they consider expedient from time to time.
- (b) Despite (a), all members of the Review Committee shall obey the same rules as would be applicable to Municipal Councillors under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

5. Term of Agreement

(a) Subject to Clause 5(b) and (c), this agreement shall be for a one year term commencing on January 1, 2023 and ending on December 31st, 2023. This agreement shall be reviewed for subsequent renewal prior to the aforementioned ending date.

(b) The term of this agreement is subject to the continuation of financial contributions by the County, failing which the agreement shall be automatically terminated.

(c) The County shall have the ability to terminate this agreement at any time on 120 days' notice delivered in writing to the GRCA. In the event of such termination, this agreement shall terminate when the notice period has expired and no further work shall thereafter be done on the programme except that:

- (i) existing approved grants shall be honoured to the extent of available funding;
- (ii) any expenses and disbursements of the GRCA, including eligible expenses of the Review Committee, incurred to the date of termination shall be paid out of the programme budget;
- (iii) any other follow-up or technical support work in relation to any approved grants shall be continued, with the costs of same being paid out of the programme budget.

Where any funds given to the GRCA by the County remain unexpended after the amounts in (i) and (ii) above have been paid, they shall be returned to the County.

d) The GRCA shall have the ability to terminate this agreement at any time on 120 days' notice delivered in writing to the County if changes to the GRCA's programmes and services render this agreement unenforceable. The termination of this agreement under this clause shall be subject to Clause 5(c).

6. Financial

(a) The County shall make a payment in the amount of \$40,000 on account of the costs of the programme during the year 2023, subject to budget approvals.

(b) The County shall decide in their absolute discretion whether or not they choose to make any further contributions in any future years, and nothing in this agreement shall be construed as a requirement that any such further contribution shall either be made or considered, provided that where the County has made provision in its budget for a further contribution in any year of this agreement and such budget is approved and finalized, the amounts so authorized shall be obligations of the municipality.

(c) During the year 2023, the County shall pay their contributions within 30 days of an invoice from the GRCA requesting that such contribution be paid. During subsequent years, invoices shall also be paid within 30 days of receipt where the County has elected to make further contributions and these contributions have been approved and finalized in their budget.

7. Indemnification

The GRCA will indemnify and save harmless the County, its employees, agents, successors, and assigns, from and against all actions claims and demands whatsoever which may be brought against or made upon the County and against all losses, liability, judgments, claims, costs, demands or expenses which Dufferin County (including their employees, agents, successors and assigns) may sustain, suffer, or be put to resulting from or arising out of the GRCA's failure to exercise reasonable care, skill or diligence in the performance or rendering of any work or service required hereunder to be performed or rendered by the GRCA.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the GRCA hereby agrees to well and truly save, keep harmless and fully indemnify the County, its employees, agents, successors and assigns, from and against all actions, claims and demands whatsoever which may be brought against or made upon the County (including their employees, agents, successors and assigns), for the infringement of or use of any intellectual property rights including any copyright or patent arising out of the reproduction or use in any manner of any plans, designs, drawings, specifications, information, negatives, data, material, sketches, notes, documents, memoranda, or computer software furnished by the GRCA in the performance of this Agreement.

For the purposes of this section, "costs" shall mean those costs awarded in accordance with the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, the order of a board, tribunal or arbitrator or costs negotiated in the settlement of a claim or action.

8. Insurance

The GRCA also agrees that it shall, at its own expense during the performance of the services described hereunder, cause to be maintained comprehensive general liability, automobile and professional liability policies of insurance in all respects, and with deductible levels supported by financial guarantees, satisfactory to the County and containing not less than a \$5,000,000.00 level of coverage. The County shall be added as additional named insured in such policies of insurance.

9. Records

(a) The County shall be entitled to inspect and audit the books, accounts and records of the GRCA during regular office hours with respect to any work performed pursuant to this agreement. In addition, whenever the County may request same, the GRCA shall provide receipts to substantiate any disbursements it may have made to perform any works required hereunder.

(b) By March 1st of each year of this agreement, the GRCA shall provide an annual report to the County which shall describe the following:

- (i) The services completed during the preceding year;
- (ii) The services completed to the date of the report; and,
- (iii) An accounting of all receipts and disbursements in connection with the programme.

10. Notification

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this agreement shall be given to the appropriate party through regular mail directed to their principal place of business. Any party may change its address by notice given in accordance with this section. Notices may be delivered personally, in which case they shall be effective immediately, or through regular mail, in which case they shall be effective on the fifth day following mailing.

11. Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)

- (a) “MFIPPA” means the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, including any amendments thereto;
- (b) “MFIPPA Protected Information” means “Protection of Individual Privacy”, as defined under MFIPPA
- (c) “PIPEDA” means the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 5, including any amendments thereto;

- (d) “PIPEDA Protected Information” means any “Personal Information” or “Personal Health Information”, as defined under PIPEDA;

It is understood that the PIPEDA and/or MFIPPA shall apply to all records submitted to or created by the GRCA pursuant to this Agreement;

The GRCA represents and warrants that:

- (a) it shall preserve the **PIPEDA and/ or MFIPPA** compliance of all **PIPEDA and/ or MFIPPA Protected Information** transferred to it;
- (b) it shall ensure the **PIPEDA and/or MFIPPA** compliance of all **PIPEDA and/or MFIPA Protected Information** it collects in the course of performing its contractual obligations; and,
- (c) it shall ensure the **PIPEDA and/or MFIPPA** compliance of all **PIPEDA and/or MFIPPA Protected Information** that it transfers.

12. Interpretation

Words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall include the plural where the meaning or context so requires.

13. Complete Agreement

This agreement, and the schedules attached thereto, constitutes the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties which supersedes all other communications between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement.

14. Relationship of the Parties

Nothing in this agreement shall be constructed to place the parties in the relationship of partners, joint venturers, principal/agent, or employer/employee. The GRCA also acknowledges that it has no authority to bind the County to any obligation of any nature or any kind, in law or in equity.

15. Successors and Assigns

This agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding on the parties hereto, and their respective heirs, successors, and assigns. Provided however, that the GRCA shall not assign this agreement nor any interest therein without the prior written consent of the County.

16. Applicable Law

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their corporate seals attested to by the hands of their respective proper signing offices in that behalf duly authorised.

The County of Dufferin
Per:

The Grand River Conservation Authority
Per:



DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES

Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The Committee met at 7:00 p.m. by video conference.

Members Present: Councillor Chris Gerrits (Chair)
Tanya Boniakowski (Public Member)
Lisa Needham (Public Member)
Heather Pady (Public Member)

Members Absent: Andy Kennedy (Public Member) (prior notice)
Sonja Wyss (Public Member) (prior notice)

Staff Present: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager
Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk

Chair Gerrits called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Chair Gerrits shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

DISCUSSION

1. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 25, 2022 – ITEM #1
Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan – Summary of Public Comment

The team discussed the public input to the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan, received as of August 15, 2022. The County Forest Manager noted that about 25 additional comments were received since the agenda package was published. The additional comments addressed many of the same themes as the previous comments,

particularly with regards to motorized vehicle use within the County Forest.

The team discussed the following:

- Creation of additional parking
 - Parking area at Mono Tract
 - Move parking at the Main Tract away from where the horse trailers would park
 - Improve communication about the parking limits at Main Tract during events
- Motorized vehicle use within the Dufferin County Forest
 - Currently motorized vehicles are permitted for those with mobility issues and for game retrieval and this is what is included in the new draft
 - Consider limiting motorized vehicles based on engine level – no high-powered engines but consider allowing e-bikes
 - Some of the comments address questioning people about their disabilities and whether this is a violation of human rights
 - Consider the threshold where you need a driver's license for an e-bike
 - Liability and insurance changes depending on what type of motorized vehicle is being discussed
 - Consider different motorized vehicle use for the rail trail and the forest tracts
 - If the use of motorized vehicles is opened to clubs, they are self-governed groups and speed limit signs could be posted
 - Continue communication with the Simcoe County Forest as it connects with the Dufferin County Forest. It would make sense if the use of motorized vehicles was the same.
- Improving communication during events, particularly around how users can access the trails around the event field
- There are currently no plans to introduce day use fees. The recreation plan will include a statement directing user to the County's fee by-law. Fees will continue for events and for hunting permits.
- The possibility of the property at 195620 Amaranth-Grand Valley Townline being used for recreational use or designated as a forest area. Staff are currently investigating possible uses for the property and will report back to Council.

The commenting period is open until August 31, 2022. Once the commenting period closes, the County Forest Manager will summarize the comments and revise the draft Recreation Plan. The draft plan will be presented at the September meeting of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: To be determined

Respectfully submitted,

.....
Councillor Chris Gerrits, Chair
Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

To: Chair Brown and Members of the Committee

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Meeting Date: September 22, 2022

Subject: **Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan**

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives:

Good Governance (GG) - ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure (SEI)- protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive and supportive community (ISC) – support efforts to address current and future needs for a livable community

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County owned former rail corridor trail and the Dufferin County Forest.

Background & Discussion

Through 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signage, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was drawn from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed through the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

The development of the outdoor recreation plan occurred in two distinct stages, both of which included a high level of public consultation and outreach. The first stage of this consultation asked the public to contribute their ideas, broadly divided into the categories of signage, infrastructure, interpretive features, educational programs, information sources, and permitted and prohibited uses for both the Rail Trail and the County Forest. The Rail Trail section also included a question regarding use for active transportation.

In the second stage, participants were asked to comment on the draft plan. This survey was additionally open-ended, having only two questions. One asking for comments on the Rail Trail section and one asking for comments on the County Forest section.

Both stages provided approximately 60 days for public comment, with information being distributed through ads in local newspapers, County social media channels, County electronic newsletters, County website, Join in Dufferin, direct e-mail notifications to local municipalities and other stakeholders.

In order to provide members of the public the opportunity to discuss the draft plan with County staff in-person, two open houses were held. One at the Edelbrock Centre on August 4 from 3:00 pm -7:00 pm and one at the Museum of Dufferin on August 6 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Two members of the public attended at Edelbrock and eleven at the Museum of Dufferin. All those who attended were advised to submit their comments in writing in order to have them considered during the development of the final draft of the outdoor recreation plan.

Although the volume of comments received at this stage was limited (25 on the Rail Trail section and 43 on the County Forest section), many were quite detailed in their input and analysis. This was helpful in working to produce a comprehensive document such as the draft outdoor recreation plan.

Comments on the draft plan were open-ended in structure and divided according to the Dufferin Rail Trail and the Dufferin County Forest. The following trends were observed:

1. Necessity to better define what is meant by electric motorized vehicles as these are increasing in diversity and not all may be appropriate for use in the County Forest and/or on the Rail Trail.
2. Satisfaction with current separate trails for equestrian use and mountain biking in the Main Tract of the County Forest.
3. Satisfaction with the proposed infrastructure for both the Rail Trail and the County Forest, including portable toilets, signage, and winter parking lot

maintenance.

4. A desire to have motorized vehicle use (dirt bikes in particular) permitted in the County Forest.

The first three trends noted above have been addressed in the revised draft. In the revised draft, off-road motorized vehicles are permitted on the Rail Trail but not in the County Forest (with the exception of snowmobiles). This is due to a number of factors, including potential for conflict with other users and forest neighbours, noise, environmental impact (primarily erosion/rutting), and lack of parking areas at any of the tracts other than the Main Tract. Since snowmobiles travel in winter, these factors are not as significant as there are fewer users and travel over snow does not have the same environmental impact as travel over bare ground. ATVs and snowmobiles are currently permitted on the Rail Trail.

The County's 'Join in Dufferin' tracks user activity while on the project site. These statistics show that there were 313 downloads of the draft plan, but only 28 participants in the survey. It is very difficult to precisely determine the reasons for the disparity in these numbers. The explanation could range from participants simply not getting around to reading the document following download, to readers being generally satisfied with the document and not being compelled to further comment.

Respondents were also asked to provide some demographic information as part of the 'Join in Dufferin' survey and the hardcopy questionnaire. The demographic questions show that most respondents are active County Forest users with most citing direct email from forest management, an e-mail newsletter, and social media as predominant methods of learning of the project. The majority of respondents did not identify with any of the diversity representations.

Significant changes to the draft as a result of the public consultation are highlighted in yellow on the attached document. Many of these are as noted above in this report and are further detailed below in the financial impacts section.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

The revised Outdoor Recreation Plan envisions significant infrastructure and signage improvements over what currently exists on the Rail Trail and, to some degree, in the County Forest, in particular outside of the Main Tract. Should the Plan be adopted, infrastructure improvement cost estimates will be included within the draft 2023 budget.

Below are estimates for the major initial anticipated costs. These estimates do not consider replacement costs for signage. A reasonable life-cycle for signage can be estimated at approximately fifteen years, assuming that they are not vandalized, stolen, or need to be replaced because information has substantially changed (e.g. permitted uses).

Item	Cost Per Unit	Total Cost	Notes
Portable Toilets	\$175/month/toilet (includes weekly servicing)	\$5,425	2 toilets for 7 months (Apr-Oct) and 1 for 5 months (Nov-Mar) at Main Tract; 1 for 12 months at Mono Tract
Portable Toilets	\$175/month/toilet (includes weekly servicing)	\$4,200	On the Rail Trail in Orangeville and Shelburne
Winter Snow Removal	\$400	\$4,000	Main Tract parking lot only (not including field parking)
Signs	\$50 (installation not included)	\$2,800	Restricted activities signs at all County Forest entrances (including website address/QR code for more info)
Signs	\$50 (installation not included)	\$2,800	History/Indigenous history/"land acknowledgement" signs at all County Forest entrances
Signs	\$15 (installation not included)	\$1,500	Every 300m along perimeter adjacent to private property of all County Forest properties
Signs	\$40 (installation not included)	\$1,600	"you are here" signs, at most at all wayfinding locations in the Main Tract
Signs	\$50 (installation not included)	\$2,500	Restricted activities signs at all Rail Trail road crossings (both directions) (including website address/QR code for more info)
Signs	\$50 (installation not included)	\$2,500	History/Indigenous history/"land

Item	Cost Per Unit	Total Cost	Notes
			acknowledgement" signs at all Rail Trail road crossings (both directions)
Signs	\$25 (installation not included)	\$1,250	Road name and road crossing signs at all Rail Trail road crossings (both directions)
Signs	\$15 (installation not included)	\$1,140	Distance markers for the Rail Trail (both directions)
Resurfacing	\$100,000/year		Rail Trail
Trail Maintenance	\$5,000/year		County Forest
Road Maintenance	\$2,000/year		County Forest
Non-Potable Water Source (Well)	Up to \$20,000 + ongoing testing		Main Tract, County Forest
Graphic Design of Information Products	\$3,000/year	\$12,000	County Forest & Rail Trail; could be spread over two or three years

Recommendation

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan, dated September 22, 2022, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

AND THAT the Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan be approved;

AND THAT staff be directed to update the applicable by-law in accordance with the approved plan.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Prepared By:

Caroline Mach, R.P.F.
County Forest Manager

Attachments: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan
Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Comments

REFRESH | REGROW | RECREATE

NEW ROUTES

Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan



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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law since its initial creation. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

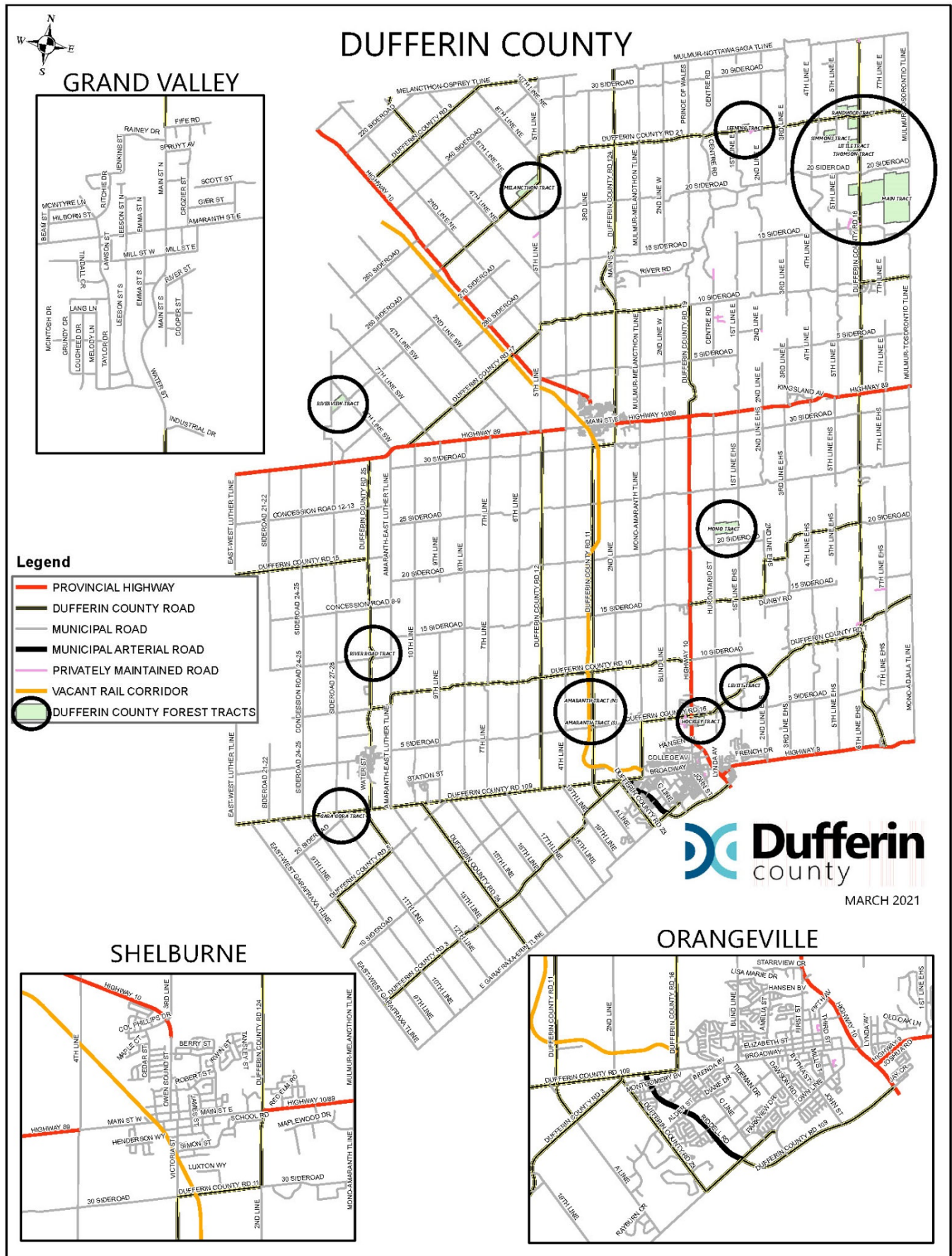
The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, and putting environmental sustainability at the forefront, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan



Communications

- Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.
- Add Rail Trail information to the County website.
- Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.
- Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest and/or providing content to existing trail-related apps.
- Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.
- Improve printed information products through better graphic design.
- Communicate key information through radio ads.
- Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.
- Continue to communicate information through County website.
- Launch information campaign such as "Slow and Say Hello" (www.safetrailsmarin.org) to increase awareness amongst various users and user groups

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.
- Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.
- Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

- Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).
- Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.
- Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.
- Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").
- Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.
- Speed limit signs for motorized users.
- Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.
- Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

- Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.
- Signs describing flora and fauna.
- Guided interpretation walks.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

- Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

2. Parking

- Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

3. Dogs

- Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. Safety

- The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.
- Helmets are required for anyone cycling, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

5. Respect for Property

- Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.
- Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.
- Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.
- Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.
- The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.
- Consideration will be given to establishing a source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) at the Main Tract.
- Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

- Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the *Trespass to Property Act*.
- Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

- Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.
- Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.
- Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").
- For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.
- At the Mono Tract, increase signs to increase awareness amongst various users and user groups.
- Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.
- Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

- Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.
- Guided interpretation walks.
- Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.
- Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Indigenous Peoples

- This policy does not limit or supersede any recognized rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. Generally Accepted Uses

- Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

3. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

- Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future*: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026 (Table 8, pg. 27).

4. Trails

- Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

5. Motorized Vehicles

- Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles and vehicles used for game retrieval, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.
- Pedal-assist electric bicycles (Class 1) are permitted where cycling is permitted.
- Wheelchairs and medical scooters are designed for people who have limited mobility because of a medical condition or injury. They are considered as pedestrians under the *Highway Traffic Act*, no matter their source of power. Therefore, there are no restrictions on their use in the Dufferin County Forest.

6. Parking

- Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

- In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.
- There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.
- Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.
- Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.
- Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.
- All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.
- Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.
- Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. Snowmobiling

- Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. Foraging

- In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest,

including for the purposes of foraging.

10. Dogs

- Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. Safety

- The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.
- Helmets are required for anyone cycling, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

12. Campfires/Cooking

- Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

13. Respect for Property

- Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.
- Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

- Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

- The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.
- Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

- Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.
- Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.
- Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities.
- Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.
- There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.
- Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.
- Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

- The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

18. Fees

- Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

19. Forest Management

- Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

- The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing	Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking	Mtn Biking
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker’s Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y	n	n

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting	OFSC Trails	Other Motorized Vehicles
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n	n	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n	n	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Randwick (4d), Walker’s Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Thomson	managed	12	n	n	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From: To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event: For Profit Non Profit

Intended Use: Camping Cross Country Skiing Hiking

(Check all that apply) Horseback Riding Mountain Biking Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature: Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.
- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.

Have Your Say

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

10 January 2019 31 August 2022

PROJECT NAME:

**New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan Refresh | Regrow |
Recreate Draft Plan Review**



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | **Comments on Rail Trail Section (you can write as much as you want)**

Anonymous

6/28/2022 04:53 PM

test

Anonymous

6/29/2022 11:53 PM

Establish brand identity and logo for recreational assets. DCF logo is awful

Anonymous

7/04/2022 11:48 AM

I have not used the rail trail as I am not sure if horses are permitted on it and if so, where there is parking access for a truck and trailer.

Anonymous

7/05/2022 02:43 PM

Love it!

Anonymous

8/04/2022 09:58 PM

Dufferin Rail trail needs to be refinished (I read that it would happen over the next couple years). Rail trails have increased in popularity and have become tourist attractions, they are a great way to safely cycle long distances away from motorized vehicles. The Caledon Trailway is a great example of "doing it right" and attracts a lot of cyclists and pedestrians, there are businesses such as brew pubs, coffee shops, and a bike shop along the route that have also benefitted from groups of cyclists. There has been an explosion in "gravel cycling" (essentially road bike with wider tires and mountain bike-like geometry) which includes rail trails and gravel roads as many road (asphalt) cyclists are getting away from dangerous busy roads. The Dufferin Rail Trail is a great jumping off point to get out of town and onto gravel roads in Dufferin and create loops that circle back home. However I worry that with constant ATV use it will quickly get rutted again and while I'm sure there are a lot of ATVs vs cyclists, long term they don't mix safely. I've cycled a lot of rail trails in Ontario and very rarely do you have both ATV traffic and cyclists, ATVs are forbidden on most trails and if the long term goal of the Dufferin Rail Trail is to become an "active transportation corridor" then a decision will have to be made at some point. Planting trees along the route to make it less open is also a very nice feature. When rail trails have great forest cover they are very pleasurable to ride on as they have welcome shade and a buffer against wind. I am very happy to hear that there are long term plans to upgrade this corridor and with the plans for the former Orangeville railway south of town it is a very exciting time to be a cyclist and have a "network" of trails, I have had discussions with other cyclists and they agree!

Anonymous

8/14/2022 01:14 PM

The overall plan does not have an executive summary indicating key statistics on inventory. The rail section does not provide detail on the map legend showing the different types of trail conditions. I am not sure why a separate social media account is needed for the trail. Working with different trail activity groups and promoting on their social media would be better. There are many commercially available apps for trails around the world. Dufferin county should be listed and work with these established platforms. Trail details should include trimming and cleaning activity frequency. No KPIS or metrics have been established. Moreover, the plan should discuss expanding the tree canopy along the route. Large sections of this trail have no trees. This would help improve air quality and trail experience for users. Suggest cataloging current trees along trail. Could seek government grants from various organizations to retain a consulting firm. Introducing garbage bins, and benches along viewing points would be a much nicer experience for various users. It would be great to learn about the history of this area. Please see example. <https://firststoryblog.wordpress.com/>. Ideas: 1. Seek government grant to do a comprehensive inventory of the trail using drone capture process. Will improve asset management plan for county along with provide opportunities to add to tree canopy. 2. Look at technology experiences and apps to incorporate education element of the trail experience 3. Develop KPIS for asset management, trail operations to show value of investment. Do we have trail entry counters at key points? 4. Add amenities on trail such as garbage bins, and benches at key points 5. Improve signage information at road crosses, with information for various users with information of local businesses in the area to help economic development. 6. Incorporate into appendix public engagement findings from draft plan to final plan. 7. Working with Tourism Dufferin improve trail awareness for horse riding, mountain biking and ATV use with organizations in Southern Ontario. 8. Has electric snowmobiles and ATV infrastructure been considered the Federal government has allocation \$2billion for EV infrastructure. Locating 1-2 chargers at key points at the trail will increase adoption of these zero emission vehicles. 9. Exploring naming the trail after the aboriginal community in the area? 10. To reduce cost of maintenance of trail explore sponsorship of sections of trail to local businesses or community groups. Acknowledge sponsorship with signage in the section. 11. Capital and operating cost for the trail should be included in the study.

Anonymous

8/16/2022 10:37 PM

Other rail trails in the province allow motorized vehicles , Dufferin should allow them as well. All off road motorcycles are insured, plated and have a valid permit to access the trails. It is time to allow all motorized vehicles especially since the increased interest since the pandemic. The motorized off road community does stewardship on these trails in other counties.

Anonymous

8/16/2022 11:04 PM

This should be for all users - perhaps certain days -= certain users

Anonymous

8/17/2022 08:35 AM

I'm all in favour of moarriized vehicle use on the rail trail. Quiet legally insured dirt bikes are great for family enjoyment of the outdoors.

Anonymous

8/17/2022 09:15 AM

In addition to trail uses, trail etiquette should be considered. That is, walk/run/ride on right, pass on left. Cyclists should ring a bell to indicate passing. Re Safety - personal audio devices - unless you plan to have HUGE signage to indicate no headphones, this rule is laughable and cannot be enforced.

Anonymous

8/17/2022 10:42 AM

I haven't been on the rail trail yet, but I look forward to trying it after the improvements are made.

Anonymous

8/17/2022 03:14 PM

I do not use the rail trail

Anonymous

8/17/2022 05:26 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan, the ideas presented to expand enjoyment and usage are great. I have one suggestion: the addition of benches at random points for trail users to rest, take a photo and/or read about a particular historical location/activity. The benches could be sponsored/purchased as a source of income.

Anonymous

8/18/2022 03:02 PM

I love what they have been doing with the rail trail in the last few years as I ride bikes and am involved in the biking community so having all of these outdoor spaces to use safely has been a great opportunity.

Anonymous

8/21/2022 11:02 AM

The rail trail is fine for cycling, hiking and running. It is not desirable as a orv trail as the trail does not connect any singletrack trails. Plus the cost of hardening the trail to withstand side x side/atv use is cost prohibitive. I would not recommend this trail for motorized use.

Anonymous

8/25/2022 12:38 PM

Hello! I am a local originally from Gander Newfoundland who grew up riding on the 1500km Newfoundland rail trail. When I heard we are repurposing ours, I was very excited to put in my suggestion! I ride rail trails on my dual sport motorcycle all over Canada and would LOVE for our trails to accommodate the recreation. The bikes don't

do damage to trails like ATVs might in rainy conditions, and are a very narrow and managable vehicle to control on rail trails. Thank you for your consideration!

Anonymous

8/29/2022 09:52 PM

Nice and wide open.

Anonymous

8/30/2022 03:23 PM

Signage with distance is needed Benches/ Picnic tables (rest stations)

Optional question (18 response(s), 15 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q2 Comments on County Forest Section (you can write as much as you want)

Anonymous

6/28/2022 04:53 PM

test

Anonymous

6/29/2022 11:53 PM

Establish new brand identity and logo. Make it simple and visually appealing, something that can be used as a marketing asset in the future

Anonymous

6/30/2022 10:36 AM

Dufferin County Forest should consider allowing foraging for personal use, similar to Simcoe County Forest's policy. If impact on species is a concern, there are 2 ways to mitigate this: 1. Restrict it to mushrooms (since foragers are just picking the fruiting body of a larger underground organism, long term studies have indicated that there is no impact the species as a whole: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222572829_Mushroom_picking_does_not_impair_future_harvests_-_Results_of_a_long-term_study_in_Switzerland) 2. Consider selling a foraging license similar to the hunting license that you sell. This could be used to fund regeneration projects or other infrastructure projects within Dufferin County Forest.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 11:48 AM

I am primarily a user of the Dufferin Forest Main Tract for horseback riding. The access to the field parking area when events are not booked is good. The new maps of the main tract are very helpful. If maps were made available at a second kiosk in the field parking area it would be even better. The addition of signs in the forest at intersections, etc. is beneficial. I rode with OTRA at the Main Tract in June and allowing the OTRA/Chesley groups to have a porta-pottie

onsite for their rides this season is a nice convenience. I agree with the requirement for equestrians to ride with helmets as noted in the draft plan. I feel the overall draft is good and hope that all user groups can come together to communicate their wants and needs and work together for the benefit of all recreational users of the forest.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 12:00 PM

It would be very helpful if there was a water source for horses at the Main Tract.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 12:56 PM

Please keep the forest open as multi use. Allowing only one group to take over the whole forest is not fair no matter how big their organization is. It should be enjoyed by all unmotorized sports.

Anonymous

7/05/2022 02:43 PM

Again, love it! My family loads up the horse trailer with equestrian and cycling equipment, enjoy the day doing our respective sports, sometimes cross paths.

Anonymous

7/26/2022 10:02 AM

Please continue the separation of trails by user group..since its inception the user groups have gotten along much better with minimal conflicts. The trails also experience less erosion and deterioration. In my opinion this separation has been beneficial to all interested parties

Anonymous

7/27/2022 11:06 AM

The separate trails used for horses and mountain bikers is a great idea. Less erosion for the trails in general and no road apples on the bike trails.

Anonymous

8/04/2022 09:58 PM

Very happy with the mountain bike trails, Mono has become a great fitness routine for my friends and myself. Same for Main Tract. A small parking lot at Mono Tract would be nice, especially for Fatbiking in the winter.

Anonymous

8/14/2022 01:14 PM

As mention in other section no executive summary for the overall report. The forestry section idea of a second kiosk sounds like a good idea. What is the cost of building this kiosk and what are the asset management lifecycle considerations. 5. Electric Vehicles Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval. This might need to be tweaked as mental health issues have been issued accessibility permits. A more broader definition of this section needs to be done. This can be challenged at the human rights level. The plan does not mention electric bikes or electrically assisted bikes? Why are snowmobiles

allowed and other motorized vehicles prohibited? Separation of trail uses sounds like a good plan. I think establishing a pilot program approach, KPIs would be helpful could trail other uses on the trail. Dufferin County advisory panel. This seems like a good idea however the frequency should be a minimum of twice a year. This way seasonal uses can be better discussed. Add in membership section qualifications nice to have in the field of forestry, urban development, environmental stewardship, Zero Emission operations Ideas: See ideas from CP Trail section 1. Develop programs for local community groups to enjoy Forest with planned activities 2. Introduce more amenities for trail users such as benches, garbage bins. 3. overall operating and capital budgets for this forestry management should be included in the plan. 4. Introducing EV charging at parking lots would be a great idea. 5. Providing permits to food drinks at key times of year would be great to promote economic development. Thank you for letting me provide my feedback as a recent resident of Dufferin County I think its important we balance protection with enjoyment of these great outdoor spaces.

Anonymous

8/16/2022 10:37 PM

It is time to allow all user groups and not discriminate against the motorized off road community. The Off road motorcycle community all carry liability insurance which is more than some other users have. Many forest users have a certain stigma against the off road motorcycle community. This group is mostly families and and increase of women riders. Dufferin needs to give their local off road motorcycle community a place to ride, currently they are taking their wallets to other areas and Dufferin is missing out. The off road motorcycle community leaves very little damage and stewards in all other riding communities that allow off road motorcycles in the province. The OFTR which governs the local motorcycle clubs invested \$198,000 in trails for 2022. We need this investment in Dufferin County.

Anonymous

8/16/2022 11:04 PM

It would be nice if all users were accommodated in our forest. Motorized bikes , especially electric bikes should be welcomed going forward. With respectful designated areas there should be space for us all

Anonymous

8/17/2022 08:35 AM

I'm all in favour of motorized vehicle use in the forests. Quiet legally insured trail bikes are the best way to enjoy this with your family.

Anonymous

8/17/2022 10:42 AM

I think the forest signage will be a huge improvement, recently in Bracebridge's management area I noticed how clear and frequent their signs are without being too intrusive. It was extremely helpful as

I regularly help lost people in Dufferin Main Tract. Also, the separation of trails for bikes and horses has been a huge success in safety, and the increase in trail usage continues to make this extremely important for the quality of recreation for both horses and cyclists.

Anonymous

8/17/2022 05:26 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. I thoroughly enjoy spending time in the forest whether hiking or horseback riding, it's very well marked and maintained. I particularly like the separation of trails for mountain bikers and horses. I have a couple suggestions. First, add total KMs for each coloured loop, thinking more for horses then mountain bikes. Second, stronger language about dogs, I.E.: instead of "under control" to "dogs must on leash at all times." People think their off-lease dog is under control until they meet a horse and they are not in control. This is an extremely dangerous situation for dog, rider, horse and people, I think stronger language is required here for the forest section and the rain trail.

Anonymous

8/18/2022 03:02 PM

I've been a resident of Orangeville for 15 years I have been dirtbiking 5 years and am also a oftr member. I have tried to support the Dufferin rooftop riders in any way possible because I am sick and tired of having to drive to Simcoe county if I would like to ride trails. Feel free to reach out to me if I can help in any way my name's [REDACTED] and I am involved with lots of local riders including members of the Simcoe county off-road riders and oftr associations.

Anonymous

8/20/2022 11:14 PM

I am concerned about the statement on Page 6 of the Draft Recreation Plan that "consideration will be give to year-round parking, info kiosk & portable toilets in the Mono Tract." I think that toilets & parking in this very small tract will have a negative impact on the forest. Such proposed facilities could create over-use of this small tract and could encourage inappropriate use including loitering. I am sure that this possible consideration of parking & toilets is the result of pressure by the mountain biking community but priority should not be given to one set of users over other users and neighbours who may feel that such facilities would be detrimental to the forest and indeed the neighbourhood. These facilities could result in over-crowding and over-use of an area created not primarily for recreation, but for the creation and protection of a natureal habitat for flora & fauna in Dufferin County.

Anonymous

8/21/2022 11:02 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident/home owner in Orangeville. I am also the Director of Stewardship for scorra

<http://scorra.ca> we have almost 3000 members and maintain over 350km of trails in Simcoe County. Many of our members (myself included) resides in Dufferin County. Some of our older members (70+) actually built the singletrack trails in Dufferin Forest that are now used for mountain biking and hiking. The history of off-road motorcycling goes back over a 100 years in Dufferin. Definitely a heritage activity. We as a group off-road motorcycle enthusiasts would like to see this heritage activity be included again in Dufferin forests as in other places. We feel that this will be a benefit to the residents of Dufferin and boost tourism of the area. It will also change peoples view that Dufferin is exclusive to recreation activities based on prejudices. Off-road motorcycling has changed considerably over the years. Singletrack trail construction is done with sustainable methods similar to mountain biking. Noise is reduced due to strict industry regulations. Clubs also actively police the trails with the OPP to make sure the regulations are adhered to. The costs of all this have been carried by the clubs. Studies have also shown that off-road motorcycle singletrack trails are not detrimental to the forest health. Instead it promotes healthy growth by providing breaks and pathways for animal movements. The soil does not become compacted as with other trail uses. The biggest change is also the carbon footprint that off-road motorcycles have. The engines are of smaller size then any orv, have European/mot emission standards and use the least amount of fuel. Off-road motorcycles can be legally ridden to the trails. This is not often done with any other forest recreational activity. Even hikers can have a bigger carbon footprint. Off-road motorcycles are also at the forefront of electrification. With climate change and the lack of snow fall it makes logical sense to develop recreational activities that will create the most bang for the buck. The cost of building/maintaining off-road motorcycle trails is also considerably less then other trail systems. This cost is often carried by the clubs. The added benefit is that these trails are multi use. User such as hikers, mtbers, and equestrians will benefit from these trails. In Simcoe county these other stakeholders often hold events on off-road motorcycle trails. Dufferin county does have the appropriate forest tracts to build these trails on. Many tracts are underutilized and the community can benefit from having off-road motorcycles active in the trail system. It is very important that off-road motorcycles be included in the Dufferin County Outdoor Recreational Plan with ability to have singletrack trails and not be excluded by outdated prejudices. It is also important that we have a chair on the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team as we are a major stakeholder. I would like to volunteer for that position based on my extensive experience, representing thousands of stakeholders and being a resident of Dufferin. Please feel free to contact me at any time at [REDACTED] Best Regards [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anonymous

8/27/2022 05:57 PM

Public washrooms (outhouses fine) available at the Main Tract would be AWESOME! It would stop most people from going in the woods.

Anonymous

8/27/2022 06:39 PM

Main tract: Alternate easier route around other (east) side of upper field so that dog-walkers, hikers and mountain bikers do not have to walk through the horse events. There have been comments about other trail users walking or riding through the field during these events. The current bypass (aka Ralph's Trail) although is a great trail, it is not suitable for younger children on bikes, and is also challenging for older hikers/dog-walkers. To respect the equestrian's space on their weekends, it would be beneficial to have another way "around" so as to not disturb them.

Anonymous

8/29/2022 09:52 PM

Great forest sections, would be nice to open select trails to woods style dirt bikes and dual sport bikes.

Anonymous

8/30/2022 03:23 PM

Better parking facilities, especially in the winter (snow plow) Roofed shelter for eating with picnic tables

Anonymous

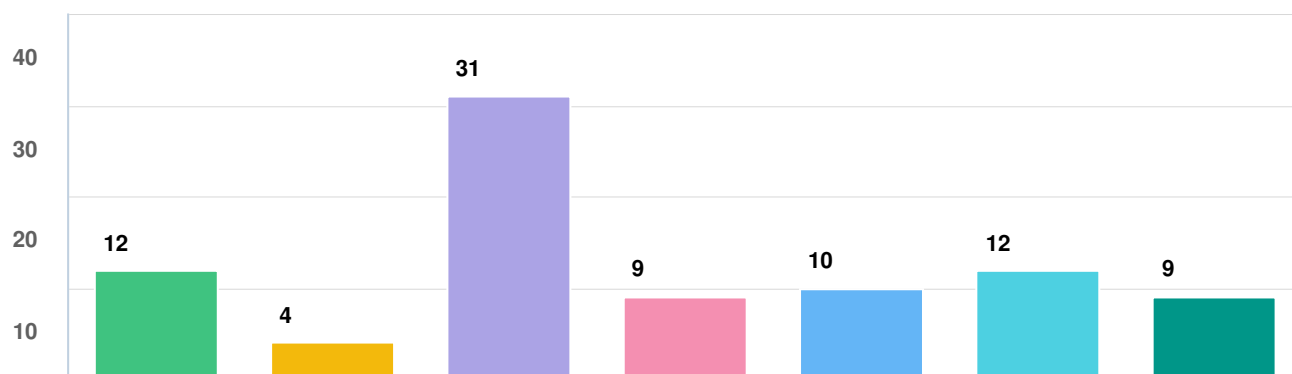
8/31/2022 04:30 PM

I reviewed the draft plan and noticed that off road motorcycles are still not getting access to the forests. This is discriminatory and favors other user groups. Motorized vehicles are in the forest already, during logging operations and snowmobiles during the winter. It seems as if scare stories from other users that selfishly wish to have the forests for their own use are given far too much weight. Simcoe County works with the local Off Road Riders Association to manage trail access for motorcycles benefit all users and they were named Forest Capital of Canada for 2022 which acknowledged their leadership in forestry and environmental stewardship. This proves that it can be done successfully.

Optional question (24 response(s), 9 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q3 Are you (check all that apply)?



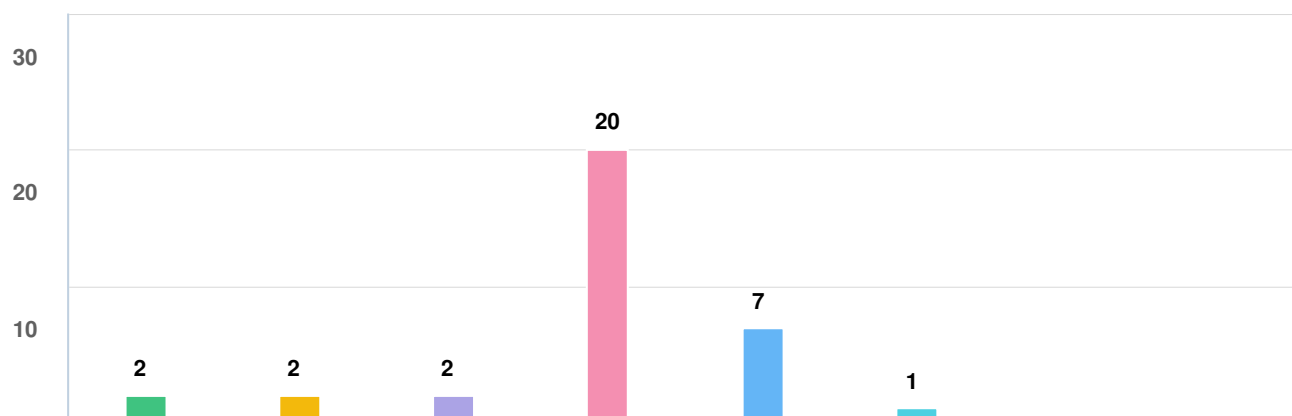
Question options

- Rail Trail User
- Rail Trail Neighbour
- County Forest User
- County Forest Neighbour
- Member of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest
- Interested Individual Residing Within Dufferin County
- Interested Individual Residing Outside Dufferin County

Optional question (33 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 Representation from across the Dufferin community matters, and having a diverse set of experiences, skills, and perspective...



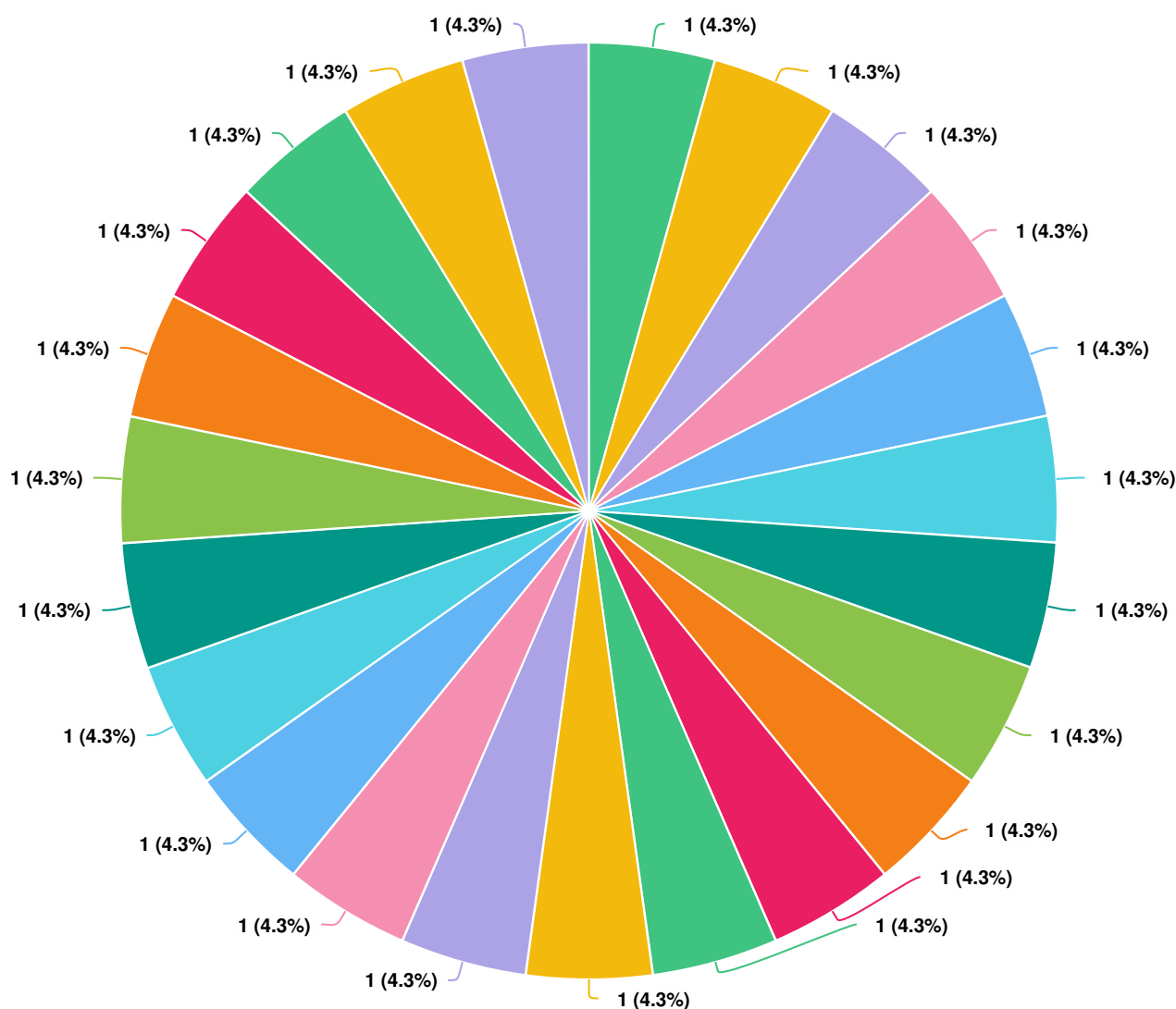
Question options

- Indigenous
- Person of Colour
- Person with a disability
- I do not identify with any of the above
- I prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)
- Black
- 2SLGBTQIA+

Optional question (31 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 Please provide your postal code.

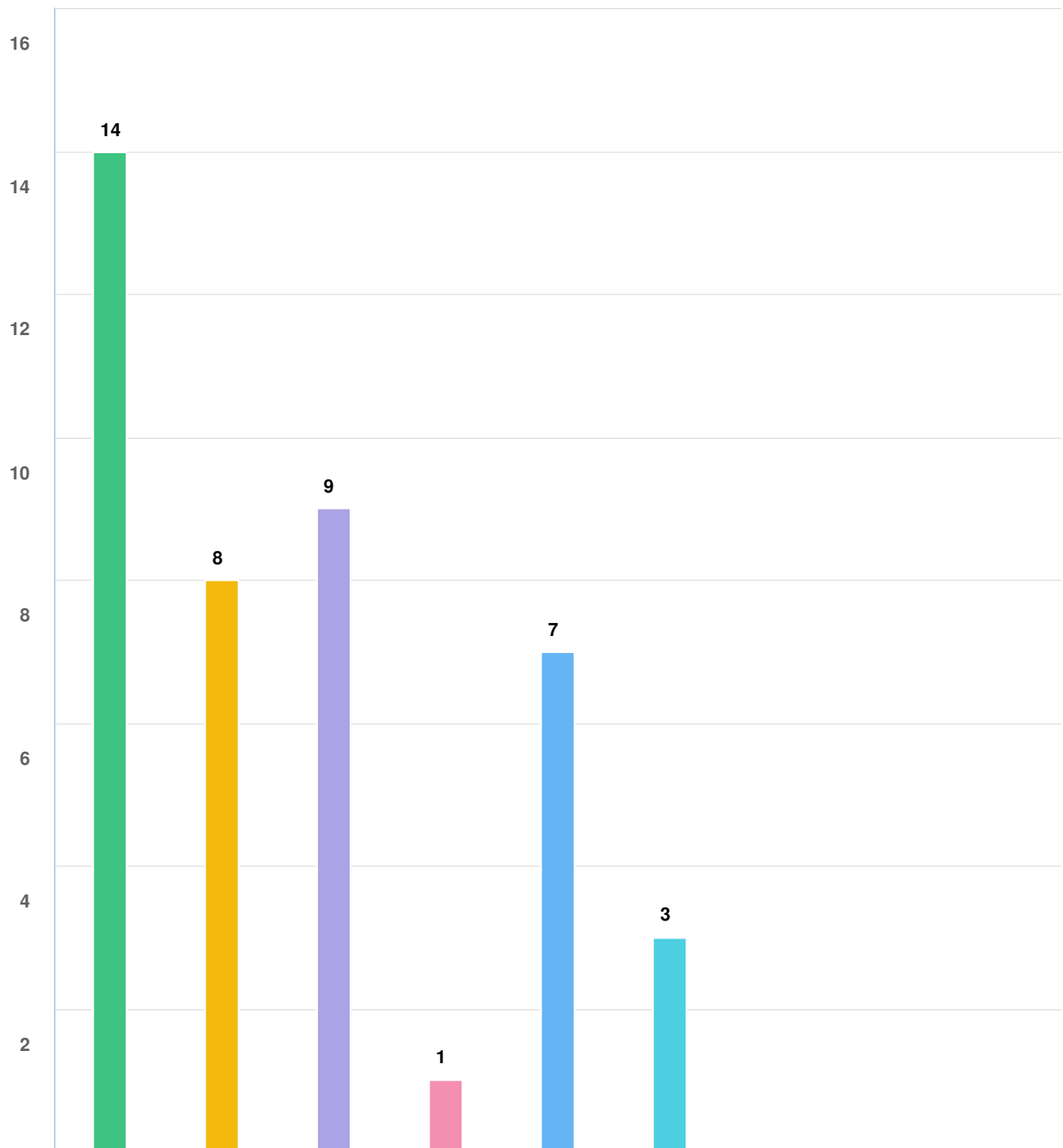


Question options

- Creemore, ON, L0M1G0
 ● Alliston, ON, L9R1X6
 ● Orangeville, ON, L9W2T6
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0L3
- Hastings, ON, K0L1Y0
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0C2
 ● Mono, ON, L9W5S2
 ● Mono, ON, L9W5P5
- Caledon, ON, L7K1T3
 ● Caledon Village, ON, L7K0N8
 ● Everett, ON, L0M1J0
 ● Georgetown, ON, L7G4S4
- Loretto, ON, L0G1L0
 ● Alliston, ON, L9R1V2
 ● Caledon East, ON, L7C1E6
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V3H9
- Orangeville, ON, L9W2G8
 ● Thornton, ON, L0L2N0
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0S4
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0P8
- Mulmur, ON, L9V0X3
 ● Alliston, ON, L9R0K4
 ● Orangeville, ON, L9W0B1

Optional question (23 response(s), 10 skipped)
Question type: Region Question

Q6 How did you find out about the review?



Question options

- direct email from the County Forest Manager e-mail newsletter Facebook Twitter
friend or family member Other (please specify) newspaper radio Instagram

Optional question (33 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Feedback for the Draft Plan of the County Forrest Review

from Page 5

Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest. – Great Idea

Add Rail Trail information to the County website. – Great Idea

Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest. – we don't need a new app, there are all ready trail apps we should join in on. And use the social media accounts to relay basic information. Don't re invent the wheel!

Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc. – yes, definite need some better maps and in trail signs. Some maps in the middle of the trails to help people get out if they have an emergency.

Improve printed information products through better graphic design. - yes

From page 5 and 6

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted

uses. – yes it needs to be a smoother trail surface to encourage more human power activities like walking, running, cycling

Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne. – yes, especially if you want human powered users.

Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne. – maybe – need to see how much use the trail gets with better surface/ parking / signage before we place toilets that just might sit outside getting no use!

Signs

Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going

south). – Yes, also include the big picture, distance to Port Credit in the south and Owen Sound in the North. This is a huge piece of provincial infrastructure. We need to look big picture.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses. - yes

Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings. - yes

Speed limit signs for motorized users. – should we allow motorized vehicles? Can a single trail support ATV, Dirt Bike, Snowmobile, Cycling, Running, Hiking? I think we need to first decide if there are motorized vehicles in the first place. Personally, I picture user groups consistent with Caledon and Orangeville and Owen Sound rail trails. Again, picture the big picture that this becomes a huge north south route in the current rail trail network. And focus on non motorized vehicles.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment

with them. – always am import point. Less signs is more

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor

recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail. – what does this mean in plain English? There is no appendix explaining like appendix A showing the uses of the tracts. We need to figure this out.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

-6-

2. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas. – any options for small parking lots where the trail crosses some side roads? Like the Caledon rail trail.

3. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the

Rail Trail. – I personally agree, but is that realistically enforceable? All trails struggle with the “head phones” issue. I think mandatory bells and a potential awareness campaign is more effective. And stick to the right side of the trail is a more realistically way to minimize conflict and improve safety.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail. – excellent

multi user groups – if we re going to allow multiple distinct user groups, we need more specific rules and language for how they need to interact. How does a bike pass a horse? How does a ATV pass a bike? For example.

5. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted. – make sure there are garbage cans at the parking facilities.

From page 6 and 7

County Forest

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable

toilets at the Mono Tract. – Yes this is a needs to be addressed!! With more people using the mono tract, we need to make some basic parking arrangements, before an incident happens on the road side. A small off road parking lot will be safer for users. Think something like the “split rock” parking lot for the bruce trail on 2nd In north of 25th sideroad. And maintained year round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the

Main Tract. – great idea! That’s a very dry and hot parking lot in the summer

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field

at the Main Tract. – yes more signs showing maps and trail entrances are good.

Signs

Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website

address and/or a QR code to link to the website. – and a map of the specific tract

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses. – always a good idea

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land (“land acknowledgement”). – a good step in the process of reconciliation

For the Main Tract, “you are here” style maps. – excellent

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

From Pages 7, 8,9,10

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for

game retrieval. – this needs to be expanded for the inevitable rise in e bikes. There are multiple classes of e bikes, and some are indistinguishable from a traditional pedal powered bike, where others are becoming more like electric motorcycles. Need more details and focus. <https://www.bosch-ebike.com/us/everything-about-the-ebike/stories/three-class-ebike-system> for a basic overview. But Class 1 E bikes should be allowed.

8. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation

of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail

permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin

County Forest. - This current practice is ok, and hopefully a similar agreement can be made on the rail trail. But some more summer trail work needs to be done to limit the erosion issues caused by the grooming equipment.

10. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest. – great wording. Under control is just as important as on leash. And an off leash dog can be a great trail companion and non destructive to the forest and other users.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield

Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-

country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following

year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County’s discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to

make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same

requirements as any other organized recreational event. – Happy to see this agreement keep working and moving forward.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish

separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to

users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract. - This is a good policy. Cyclists do not want to hit Hikers, and Hikers don’t want to be hit by cyclists. Same with equestrian, we need separation in the big main

tract and other highly used tracts to keep individual user groups safe and conflict free. Groups can mingle and be respectful on common trails and parking facilities, but in the trails, users should be separated. This concern is what needs to be figured out for the rail trail corridor. And solved when the trails are “quiet” and not wait for a flash point event like we saw with increased Covid Use of all trail systems.

18. Fees.

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's

fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request. – I would like to see the county and towns put some money towards the forests upgraded facilities. We can spend millions on a pool / hockey arenas, but we can get funding for a parking lot for trail users?

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated

recreational trails. – advanced communication and collaboration can go a long way and help in this area.

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one

member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at

least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose

of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest

are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will

be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as

required to replace or add members. – good idea would like to sit on this team one term – need to find a way to encourage younger people to sit on committees, we need youth, and “child rearing” aged people on committees. As well as a specific strategy to increase cultural diversity. The population demographics are changing, and we need committees to reflect that too.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 9:38:30 PM
Attachments: [Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello Caroline,

I have had a chance to look at the draft recreation plan and first off I'd like to say thank you for including many of the previous requests from all the different trail users. The draft plan looks very good.

I have marked up the existing document with areas that could use clarification. Hopefully this will help with the creation of the final document.

Because I cannot attend either of the open discussion dates due to other commitments, please feel free to email me any questions you may have about my comments.

Thank you for all your efforts.

[REDACTED]



NEW ROUTES

Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

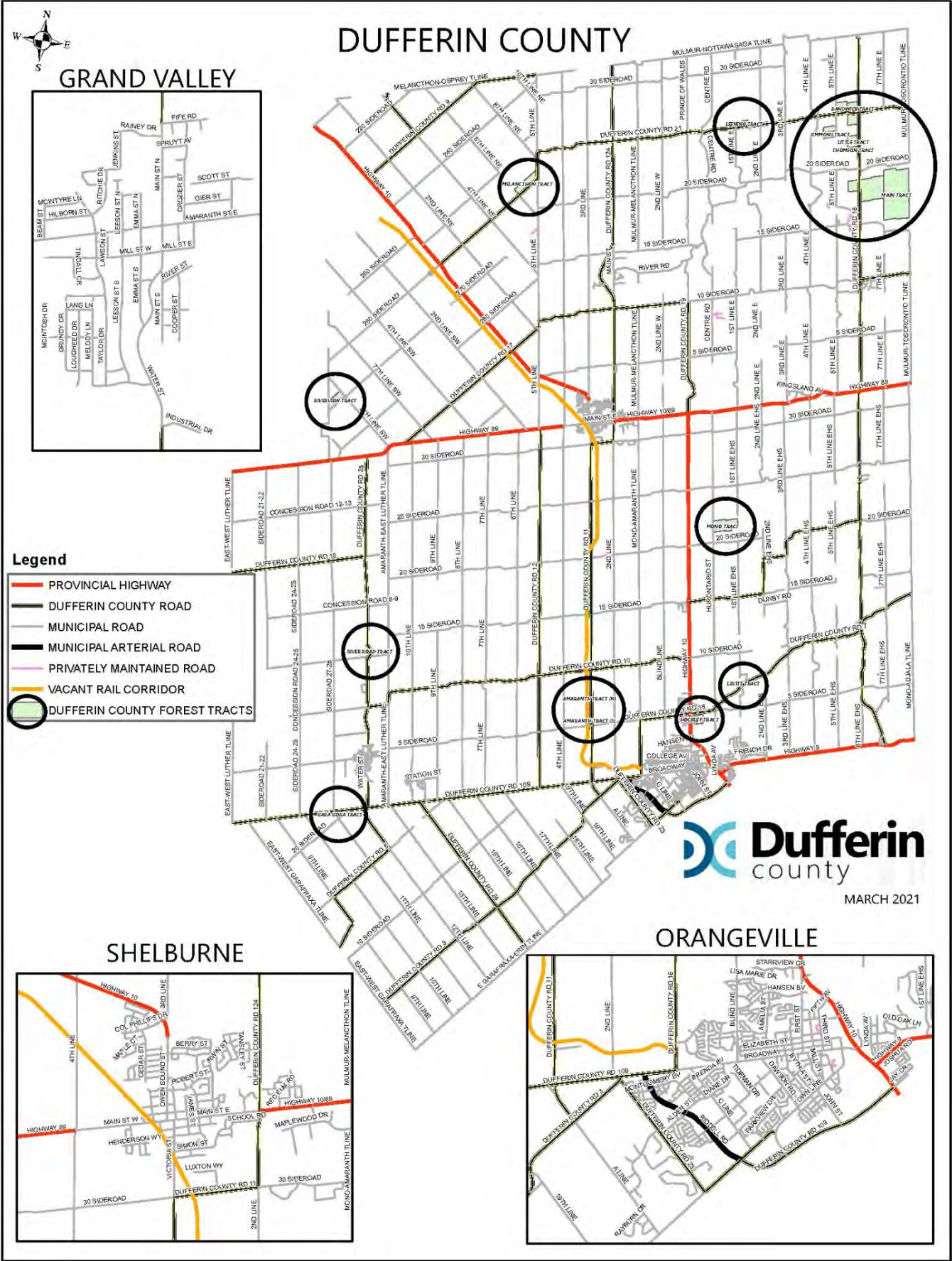
The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.



Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.
Add Rail Trail information to the County website.
Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.
Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest.
Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.
Improve printed information products through better graphic design.
Communicate key information through radio ads.
Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.
Continue to communicate information through County website.

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.
Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.
Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).
Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.
Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.
Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").
Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.
Speed limit signs for motorized users.
Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.
Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.
Signs describing flora and fauna.
Guided interpretation walks.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

2. **Parking**

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

3. **Dogs**

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. **Safety**

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

Possibly change the wording from "mountain bike" to "bicycle or all types of bicycles". That eliminates the interpretation of the rules based on the various bicycle types. (mountain, fat bike, gravel, road, e-bike, etc)

5. **Respect for Property**

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.

Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.

The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract.

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the Trespass to Property Act.

Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Guided interpretation walks.

Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.

Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026*

(Table 8, pg. 27). Should this be referenced as Appendix A, pg. 11-12 within this document or is the intent to reference the *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026*?

3. Trails

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

What is the County interpretation of a motorized vehicle? Are e-bikes electric motorized as stated in #5? If e-bikes are not allowed it should be clearly stated. Here is a link to the Ontario Regulations for e-bikes. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/riding-e-bike#section-2> Also here is a link to IMBA Canada and their direction on e-bikes <https://imbacanada.com/imba-canada-and-e-bikes/>

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

What is the County interpretation of an electric motorized vehicle? Are e-bikes of all types acceptable? Some are throttle controlled like motorcycles, pedaling is not required. The majority of e-bike users do not have mobility difficulties.

6. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the

tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. **Snowmobiling**

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. **Foraging**

In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging.

10. **Dogs**

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. **Safety**

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

Possibly change the wording from "mountain bike" to "bicycle or all types of bicycles". That eliminates the interpretation of the rules based on the various bicycle types. (mountain, fat bike, gravel, road, e-bike, etc)

12. Campfires/Cooking

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

How would daily users know when restrictions are in place?

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities.

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.

Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.

Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

This has been a positive change over the past couple of years, hopefully this remains the same.

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

Is this a day use fee or only for permit required activities?

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

What is the purpose of this clause within this document? This sounds like a county controlled item and I'm assuming this includes things like logging contracts, inventory, road work, construction, etc. Can logging tenders actually be held accountable by existing contracts?

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing	Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking	Mtn Biking
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y	n	n

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting	OFSC Trails	Other Motorized Vehicles
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n	n	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n	n	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Thomson	managed	12	n	n	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From:

To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event:

For Profit

Non Profit

Intended Use:

Camping

Cross Country Skiing

Hiking

(Check all that apply)

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.

Are campfires allowed with a permit only? Should that be clarified in #12 on Page 9 where it states - Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest? Is "Foraging" for firewood allowed? If so, #12 on Page 9 should be clarified.

- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Feedback - Updated Plan
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:03:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Dufferin Forest Manager,

I utilize and very much appreciate the Main Tract mountain biking trails (have done so on and off, mostly summer but sometimes winter – for over 10 years). My parents retired about 3km from the trail (grew up skiing at Mansfield).

I particularly appreciate the separate trails for Equestrian and Cyclists/Hikers. I find that this keeps the trails safe for all (easy to safely pass a hiker, less so when passing one or more on horseback). I also believe that this allows the cycling/hiking trails to maintain a high level of quality/safety, which isn't possible with horse hoof traffic degrading them.

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in,

Take care,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: FEEDBACK: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Sunday, August 7, 2022 10:43:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline!

I hope this email finds you well. I had hoped to make it to see you at the in-person session at MOD, but admittedly I was playing in the forest and missed the time window!

I have some feedback that I hope strengthens and simplifies what I believe is the intention of a couple of sections (without overburdening the document -- I know only too well the challenge of municipal policy making). I'll put the points in sections.

Rail Trail (pg 6, point 4 -- Safety)

Recommendation: *"Helmets are required for anyone [REDACTED] biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail."*

Rationale: Rail trails are very popular and used by a wide range of types of bicycles. A helmet should be used by every cyclist. The use of "mountain" could create a technical loophole that would need to be closed once the rail trail starts to gain popularity. This will be especially critical as the section of rail trail from Brampton to Orangeville, which was just bought by Peel, Brampton and Caledon, is opened for use and more users head into Dufferin from the south.

County Forest (pg. 7, points 4 and 5 -- Motorized Vehicles and Electric Vehicles)

Recommendation: Collapse the two sections into one, as follows, with subsequent numbering changed to reflect the new order:

"4. Motorized Vehicles, including Electric. Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. Access by off-road vehicles is permitted for game retrieval only. Pedal-assist electric bicycles (Class 1) are considered regular non-assisted bicycles and are permitted on any trail where biking is already permitted."

Rationale: My reasoning is four-fold:

1. The current language in sub-points 4 (Motorized Vehicles) and 5 (Electric Vehicles) could be exploited by those in the moto/ATV/UTV community, where throttle-based electric systems are exploding in availability. Electric moto/ATV/UTV are extremely quiet, but have the same torque as those with traditional combustion motors and operate at high speeds. They are attracting new riders who may not think they are "motorized." And their silence in the forest could result in serious user conflict and safety for hikers, horses, equestrians and mountain bikers.

2. At the same time, hunters may be using ANY ATV/UTV for game retrieval, not just electric. I am sure they would question whether they can use a gasoline-powered vehicle for the same purpose, so simplifying the language may help. A motor vehicle is a motor vehicle, regardless of its fuel source.

3. The original language permits use of electric powered vehicles *"for users with mobility difficulties."* This is potentially problematic if interpreted literally and someone believes they can drive an electric car or truck into any of the properties. I know that sounds laugh-worthy, but we both know how municipal policy is interpreted by the average resident (or citizen).

In addition -- and from my own experience with privacy issues and MFIPPA -- I also know that disclosure of "mobility difficulties" is legally problematic. This type of language could be interpreted as personal health information and subject to the rules of PHIPA (not MFIPPA), while at the same time seen as a violation of AODA standards (and even Human Rights) because of the perception that unnecessary disclosure of private information may be required. I can fill you in on the pain of PHIPA if you would like (I have to deal with it every day), as well as the challenges of policy that is intended to be inclusionary, but ends up innocently exclusionary. Plus it would be a by-law enforcement nightmare that could put the officer in a touchy situation if they even ask a user. I always recommend wording that eliminates that kind of risk.

4. The current language could inadvertently restrict those of us (me included) who use speed-restricted, non-throttle pedal-assist bicycles in Dufferin Forest. These bikes are powered by muscle power and any assistance immediately stops when muscle power (pedaling) stops. Adding simplified inclusionary language that Class 1 pedal-assist bicycles are considered traditional bicycles provides clarity and reduces the potential for interpersonal conflict between users.

The class system for electric bicycles is used widely in Europe and in many US states. There is a good summary of the three classes on this [page](#). Class 1 bikes are speed-restricted, assist-only and have low-watt support electric motors. Class 2 and 3 have higher output motors, go faster and may have a throttle, so referencing the class gives clarity without overdescribing.

As you can see from my long message, I'm pretty passionate about the clarity on intended/excluded use around pedal-assist bikes. I would love to chat through these points with you if you have time during your work day. We could do it by phone or I am [REDACTED]

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jun 29, 2022 at 3:34 PM Caroline Mach <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 11:15:19 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi, I just reviewed the plan you are suggesting and as mentioned before my property backs onto the rail trail at [REDACTED] Your plan is adding more things like horseback riding, cycling, etc. than what is happening right now which is inviting more activity and people to be on the trail near my property.

What are the plans in place for the people who's properties back onto the lands to stop the following concerns that are already an issue and to make sure it doesn't get any worse with more people using the trail: people leaving their litter on properties, walking onto properties to relieve themselves, etc, walking their dogs without leashes and just let their dogs walk onto properties off the trail, noise with people blaring music, hunters walking onto private properties and not in forests, etc.

I am not trying to be negative about this but I have some real concerns about what is being suggested to landowners near the expanded use of the trails, forests, etc and what is going to be put in place to help them with any issues that arise because of the expanded use of the land.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "<County Forest Manager>", County of Dufferin <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>
Reply-To: "<County Forest Manager>", County of Dufferin <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 10:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review

From: [Scott Martin](#)
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Cc: [Beverley Frank](#)
Subject: FW: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 3:00:38 PM

Hello Caroline

I'm not sure that the trail survey is still active. Please include [REDACTED] comments that she would like to see the trail sections around Shelburne cut more often.

Thanks

Scott Martin

From: Public Works <publicworks@dufferincounty.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Scott Martin <smartin@dufferincounty.ca>
Subject: FW: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@dufferincounty.ca>
Subject: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

I find it extremely annoying that a bunch of senior citizens of [REDACTED] in Shelburne have called the town numerous times and the county, yet nothing has yet to be done and everyone denying ownership. There is a creek and railway path.

The ironic part is there was even a notice in this week's paper how residents will be charged accordingly if the town/county has to remove a long list of weeds from private property but the county/town can't even look after their own property that is impeding of senior residents that pay their taxes.

There is everything from different weeds, wild Turnip, ticks coming on their properties to mice, rats,

snakes and other rodents.

It is also a fire hazard now and when/if this gets cut as it would be so long and to be cut and left to dry it would become even more of a fire hazard. Especially with the direction of the winds in this area.

This area should be regularly maintained as the parks and other fields are and the residents should not have to go through this stress on a yearly basis.

It would be a shame to have to take this issue public as no one will address the issue.

We are all hoping this issue will get resolved this week as it's been left far to long.

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 4:19:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline,

Thank you very much for this draft recreation plan.

Could you let me know where orienteering would fit in the draft rules, as it is a low-impact off-trail recreational running activity?

Our club and our fellow Ontario clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to find forests for our events that still allow off-trail access.

Thanks very much for any clarification.

[REDACTED]
Toronto Orienteering Club board member

On Wed., Jun. 29, 2022, 15:34 Caroline Mach, <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, Dufferin residents weighed in on what recreation meant to them, and we used those ideas to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Now, we're opening the draft plan up for public feedback. Check it out and let us know your thoughts via our webpage, www.joinindufferin.com/draftrecplan.

In person opportunities to discuss the draft plan with County staff:

Thursday, August 4, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St., Orangeville

Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Museum of Dufferin, 936029 Airport Road at Highway 89, Mulmur

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, July 4, 2022 9:48:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline

Page 10 has some points that I would like to comment on/seek clarification on.

#20 will there be a new set of members established for the DCFAT in the fall as there will be a fall election for local council?

#18 does this mean that there will be fees for day use of the trails?

#17 I am glad that there will be continued designated trails for specific use

[REDACTED]

On Wed., Jun. 29, 2022, 3:34 p.m. Caroline Mach, <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

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Feedback is due by **August 31, 2022** and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

Dufferin C

on Plan

- Changing ^{recreation activities} demographics
- Rapid increase in population
- increased usage of public spaces
- open road use → out-knifed
- snowmobiles → no stay for local municipalities
- evaluation of impact on environment
- workshop facilities / garbage can
- ✓ is the trail right of way part of Rec. Plan? **(Yes)**
- ∴ designated access points?
- proven to get a new use acknowledged approved

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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

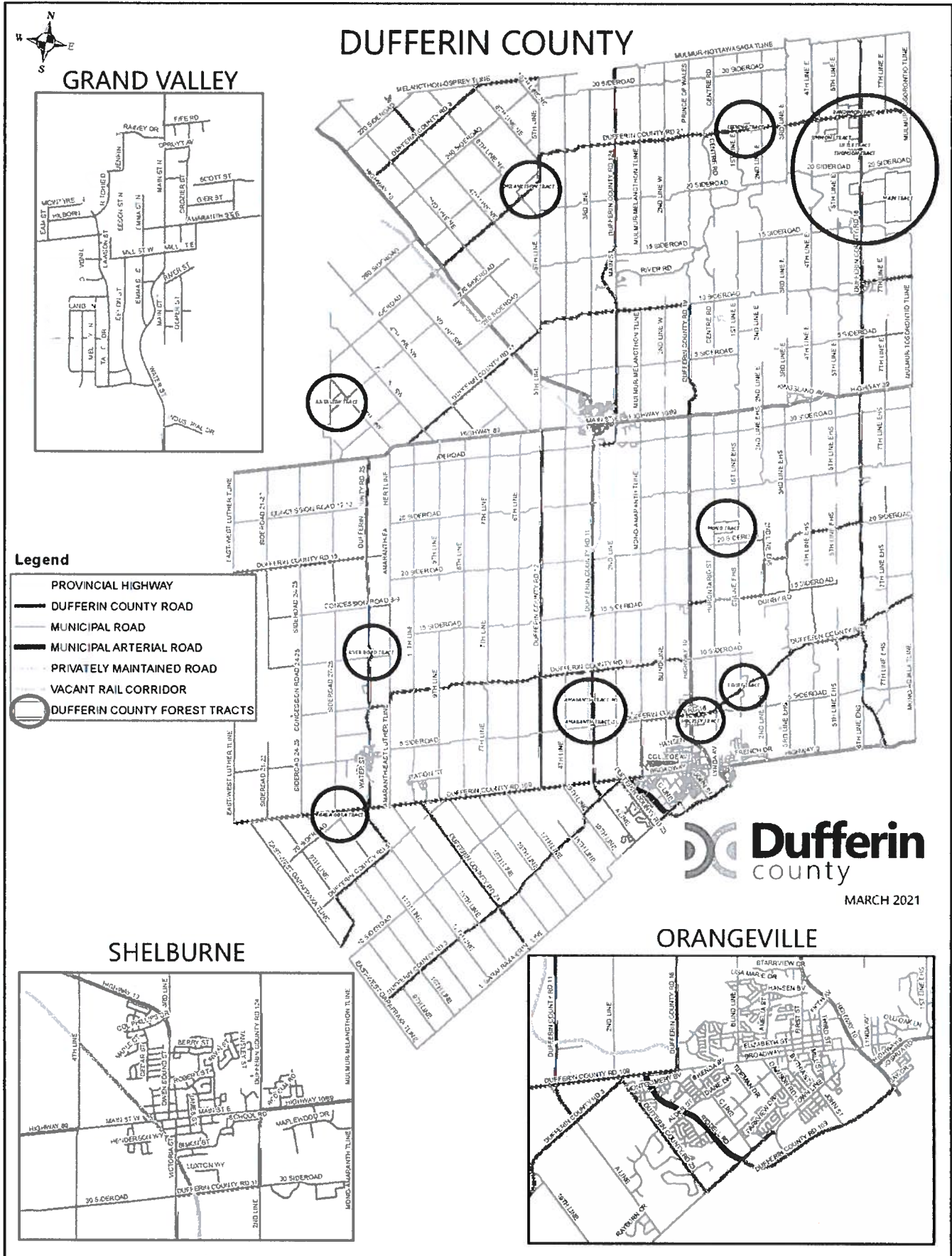
While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.

- ① - More council - not consulted on snowmobile routes using municipal roads. i.e. 1st line - concerned re safety, enforcement left to users?;
- Concern that too much is being demanded of County staff
 - Communications will be key with users & many will be (visitors)

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan



Communications

- Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.
- Add Rail Trail information to the County website.
- Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.
- Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest.
- Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.
- Improve printed information products through better graphic design.
- Communicate key information through radio ads.
- Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.
- Continue to communicate information through County website.

- role of Headwaters Tourism ?
- co-ordination with OPP & emergency services ?
Bruce ? Trail ?

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.

Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

essential for travellers - garbage waste
- experience around Mono Cliffs & Bruce Trail - impact on
neighbouring business
Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.

Speed limit signs for motorized users.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

good info for users.
- what data needed for emergency location identification
- OPP's postings ?

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Signs describing flora and fauna.

Guided interpretation walks.

good.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

? *electric bikes -

-5-

- who monitors and decides ?

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

- major challenge as local businesses homes often impacted

3. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

- enforcement is always a concern

4. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.

- Island Lake even with separate plastic bag & garbage containers still have 'shit' all around trails

- often unable to hear electric bikes

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

5. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.

Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.

The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract.

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the Trespass to Property Act.

✓ Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Very good recommendation

- discouraging of foraging

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Guided interpretation walks.

Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.

Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

- opportunity for a school to adopt a section of trail.?

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026* (Table 8, pg. 27).

3. Trails

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

- address new electric assisted bicycles.

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

- motorized wheel chairs on some sections can accommodate
Good!!

6. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas. *- more is better*

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

*- Bruce Trail might be a model
@ distance apart.*

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the

- use of cross bows?

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.

- sites identified and removal date as part of permitting

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

A sign says trapping is happening Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. Foraging

✓ In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging. *i.e. mushroom picking*

10. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

12. Campfires/Cooking

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

- fire hazard danger level awareness?

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

- any maximum # of times per season?

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities. *- must be registered with County Forester*

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.

Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.

Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

*review yearly as part of budget process
one
County*

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

*- on going use impact study & changes could
occur as necessary*

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Thomson	managed	12	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From:

To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event:

For Profit

Non Profit

Intended Use:

Camping

Cross Country Skiing

Hiking

(Check all that apply)

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.
- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION
Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.



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Share your feedback on the draft below.

Feedback is due by August 31, 2022 and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

☐

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- I totally appreciate designated use for trail use. This is a safety item as well as a trail maintenance issue. Having dedicated trails works well for all users. Having more education / signage to ensure that appropriate speeds and yielding at intersections occur.
- #18 refers to Fees for recreational use - does this mean trail passes will be req'd?
- If toilet facilities to be provided ensure they are located in an area that Forest users can access but are not visible from City R18s.
- Full parking lot has been an excellent use of space 😊
- Logging in the Forest is important but it would be great if the logging contract includes minimizing damage to trails or some provision for trail restoration

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

1. Are you (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Rail Trail User
- ☐ Rail Trail Neighbour
- ☒ County Forest User
- ☐ County Forest Neighbour
- ☒ Member of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest
- ☐ Interested Individual Residing Within Dufferin County
- ☐ Interested Individual Residing Outside Dufferin County

2. Representation from across the Dufferin community matters, and having a diverse set of experiences, skills, and perspectives guiding conversations and decisions helps us all grow together. With that in mind, do you identify with/belong to the following communities?

- ☐ Black
- ☐ Indigenous
- ☐ Person of Colour
- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+
- ☒ I do not identify with any of the above

- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)

3. Please provide your postal code. L9W 6H7

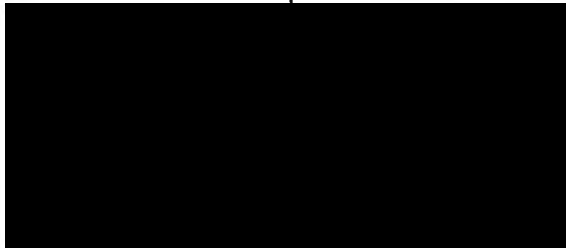
4.

How did you find out about the review?

- ☐ newspaper
- ☐ radio
- ☒ direct email from the County Forest Manager
- ☐ e-mail newsletter
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ friend or family member
- ☐ Other (please specify)

5. If you wish to be added to our email notification list so you can keep up to date on the process and other County Forest news, go to <http://eepurl.com/RtadP> or enter your email address below.

6. Please enter your name and email address or phone number if you would like to be entered into the draw for prizes.

A large black rectangular box used to redact personal information, likely a name and contact details, from the survey form.



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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

Continued separation of trails, i.e, horse trails, mountain bike trails, multi-use etc

Addition of garbage cans

Additional trail building - mountain biking

Regular trail grooming days.

Snow removal for parking lots - all

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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L9V 0S9

4.

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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

☐

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☐

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- Designated Equestrian parking area in the "field" both in event + non-event times
- retention + expansion of separate trail networks
- prevent damage to trails during logging operations
 - fund repair efforts from logging / County funds.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

1. Are you (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Rail Trail User
- ☐ Rail Trail Neighbour
- ☒ County Forest User
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- ☐ Other (please specify)

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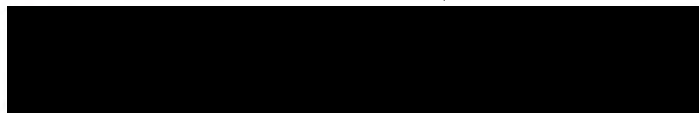
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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

Most of these comments pertain mostly to the DCF (Main Tract) Mountain Bike trails. Perhaps mostly for me, the main reason for my Biking in the Forest, is for a 'Reset' or a place to have a place of a Sanctuary of sorts. I would say, that a ride will bring me back to 'Center', mind / Body / spirit feeling from a ride. Fixes a bad day, and makes better a fine day.

- - As far as the designated trail structure, I am a fan of. It has been quite a bit safer to not have to worry about a surprise encounter with an Equestrian + Horse.
- This has happened previously before
- trail designation that exists now.

PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- Great Place to be!
Thanks Very Much for your Support

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

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606 220

4.

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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

☐

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

Suggestion for South P. lot Dufferin
(field parking) forest

- horse trailers not to park on obvious
Bike trail through field
- designated trailer parking so other users can
also enjoy shade of trees.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

1. Are you (check all that apply)?

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- ☒ County Forest User
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- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+
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- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)

3. Please provide your postal code.

L9V 0S4

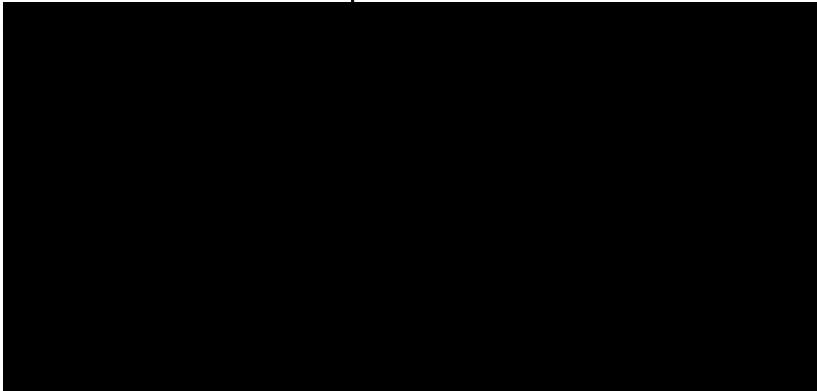
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6. Please enter your name and email address or phone number if you would like to be entered into the draw for prizes.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Draft Rec plan feedback
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:26:19 PM
Attachments: [21285792e1677679c8e62941608aadca_second_round_survey.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello.

Here is some minor feedback on the draft rec plan for Dufferin County Forests. I continue to enjoy using the Main Tract trails regularly!

One more: The names of the Advisory team should be made public so that we could know who they are.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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A map of the Rail Trail and County Forest locations within Dufferin County.

PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section (you can write as much as you want)

PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section (you can write as much as you want)

Hello. I am glad to see that the main parking area for the Main Tract will be maintain year round. I have enjoyed using the trails in these past years, rarely meeting anyone in the forest. The trail separation concept appears to be working, I often see horse trailers in the parking area, but it's been a long time since I met a horse on the trail.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

1. Are you (check all that apply)?

Rail Trail User

Rail Trail Neighbour

County Forest User

County Forest Neighbour

Member of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest

Interested Individual Residing Within Dufferin County

Interested Individual Residing Outside Dufferin County

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Black

Indigenous

Person of Colour

Person with a disability

2SLGBTQIA+

I do not identify with any of the above

I prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

3. Please provide your postal code.

4.

How did you find out about the review?

newspaper

radio

direct email from the County Forest Manager

e-mail newsletter

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

friend or family member

Other (please specify)

5. If you wish to be added to our email notification list so you can keep up to date on the process and other County Forest news, go to <http://eepurl.com/RtadP> or enter your email address below.

6. Please enter your name and email address or phone number if you would like to be entered into the draw for prizes.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Draft Recreation Plan
Date: Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:29:58 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi there.

I have reviewed the draft recreation plan and it seems quite complete.
I may have missed these points in the plan, but I feel that they are important to emphasize.

1. Include signage that describes who has the right of way between hikers, bikers and horseback riders and motorized vehicles.
Also try to educate people on this topic through your social media and website information.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Friday, August 19, 2022 8:29:33 AM


CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Dufferin and an avid user of county forests and trails. I enjoy hiking, biking and generally being outdoors. The thing I would like to see put in the plan is allowing use of offroad motorcycles. There are many benefits such as cutting down on reckless behavior and loud bikes. Overall the dirt bike community is very responsible and encourages a positive view of the sport, we clear trail debris, pick up garbage and be respectful to all user groups. Many of us travel to Simcoe and other counties every week to enjoy our sport and we support their businesses as a result. Dufferin is missing out on all of the positives and should seriously consider at least giving a trial run in some of the lesser used tracts.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

From: 
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Dufferin Forest Public Consultation Letter
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:14:51 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello Caroline. It was nice meeting you on August 4th at the Edelbrock Centre. As advised, I am placing my thoughts in writing. I don't envy you the difficult job of balancing competing interests when it comes to the meagre forest tracts that Dufferin county possesses!

First, a little about myself. I have boarded horses at Midnight Haven Equestrian adjacent to the Mono Forest tract for more years than I can recall. Currently, I board three horses there, at a cost of 600 per month per horse, plus HST and grain. This particular boarding facility has over 30 horses, and lies immediately to the west of the Mono tract, which is the reason for its popularity with trail riders. I am also an active member of the Ontario Trail Riders Association and the Chesley Saddle Club, both of which schedule numerous non competitive pleasure rides in the Dufferin Main tract. Midnight Haven employs a number of staff members, and the income generated from the business helps pay Mono township property taxes. Horse riders support local businesses such as tack stores, feed stores, farriers and veterinarians, to name a few. Boarders generally live in Dufferin County. I myself have lived and worked in Dufferin County for the majority of my life. I attended both Princess Elizabeth Public School and Orangeville District Secondary School.

What is most of note about the club activities I participate in is that we are walk-only riding clubs. When riding in the Mono and Dufferin Main tracts, I often also take my 13 year old daughter along on her small pony and we exclusively walk our horses (NO trotting or cantering). Often, we allow other trail users on foot to pass us because we risk slowing them down! We ride all year round, provided there is no ice on the trails in winter.

Incidents with Mountain bikers have become a regular concern for us when using the forest tracts and in particular the smaller Mono tract. Bikers are going at high speeds up and down hills on trails that cross the main trails the horses walk. There are small intersection crossing signs for both bikers and other users at all crossings, however I have yet to have a single biker actually stop at an intersection prior to crossing. The speed they are going at means that if a horse is sighted by a biker at an intersection, the biker is forced to brake with full force, and the bikes literally slide forward in a last minute attempt to avoid a collision. Most of these intersections have a curve in the bike trail that precludes a good long look down the trail prior to crossing it on foot or horseback, so we cannot predict when a bike will suddenly be at the intersection.

I would like to describe some of the incidents I have personally experienced in the Mono tract, by way of example. About a month ago, I was almost hit by a biker coming directly at me and my horse as I shouted "STOP, HORSE!" over and over, only to discover that the rider could not hear me because he was wearing headphones, and could not see me because he was riding at high speed with his head down to watch the trail. His bike slid to within a foot of my terrified horse. The rider then asked "What are you doing here?", put his headphones back in, and proceeded to speed away on the trail. I have had a biker cause my horse to bolt when his bike sped across the trail right behind my horse. I am certain the biker was unaware that he caused my horse to lose control. While riding in the main tract on an OTRA ride, my daughter

witnessed a horse rear and pivot sideways to physically allow a biker to speed across the trail without impacting the horse. Frankly, I have become frightened and I am now constantly on alert for speeding bikes when in the forest.

If bikers were cars and horses were pedestrians, it would be the speeding cars and not the pedestrians to blame for collisions and dangerous situations. It is only a matter of time before a biker hits and injures a horse and rider, or even a hiker on foot. We are travelling at the same speed as the hikers, in fact, we allow many hikers and joggers to pass us because we go so slowly!

The extent of the bike trails in the Mono tract and the number of intersections with the main trails has created a hazard and a liability risk. Many of the trails the bikers are using are outside the main bike "ring" or loop that was approved for the Mono tract, and these trails have been used by horses for as long as I have ridden in this forest, which is well over 30 years. Now, bikers have taken over these trails too, and I fear to use the trails I have used for decades.

You have asked me to think of solutions. My inclination is to say that the sport of Mountain biking simply does not belong on public forest trails because the speed of the sport makes it incompatible with all other forest users. There are private bike parks for a reason. These facilities are limited to bikes for the very reasons they are creating safety issues in the Dufferin Forest tracts. These bikers are not families out for a pleasant trail viewing, they are fast sport bikers that need to build speed on the downhill to maintain momentum on the uphill. This sport is different from the bikers we encounter on the shared trails in Mono Cliffs, where the bikers tend to be moving slower and often consist of whole families who have no trouble stopping to enjoy our horses. I know that an outright ban, while the safest option, is unlikely. I would suggest at least the following:

1. Stop signs could be placed at all intersections, and they need to be placed further back on the bike trails so bikers actually have enough time to stop. The current small crossing signs are too small and too close to the intersections to even give bikers a chance to stop in time, and they are universally ignored.
2. If proper signage and enforcement cannot occur, then bike trails need to be restricted so they do not intersect the trails of other users. Enforcement means exactly that: intersections need to be monitored and violators need to be fined!

I hope that a solution that values safety and supports the taxpayers of Dufferin county can be found.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 11:03:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi, Caroline!

I have my hands full with my forest, and therefore shouldn't comment on a public resource I can't use...but I will anyway.

At another Ontario site a telephone-type booth was set up at a trail entrance with parking, to solicit comments. Naturally the majority of suggestions came from city folk who drove to the area for recreation but wanted to ride dirt bikes, etc in the forest. As locals were not asked to comment, the forest became a dirt bike haven.

I'm grateful, therefore, that you are soliciting comments from those locals who may know more about local forests than Toronto citizens.

No one rides dirt bikes in my forest; I've had lots of visitors who enjoy walking among the trees. Perhaps all powered vehicles should be banned in your forests.

One step further. In Toronto's High Park, whose trails and treasures I knew from experience before I was 12 years old, cyclists are allowed but are ticketed for travelling at over 20 km/h to protect the walkers. A lot of tickets have been issued, and a lot of cyclists are angry about it. To avoid a similar problem, you might consider banning all forms of mechanical transportation. Skis and snowshoes excluded.


Enjoy the rest of the summer. In the woods the "hot" days are always cool!

[REDACTED]

On Aug 16, 2022, at 10:29 PM, County Forest Manager, County of Dufferin <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

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REMINDER: Feedback is due by **August 31, 2022** and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review


We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!


This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, Dufferin residents weighed in on what recreation meant to them, and we used those ideas to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Now, we're opening the draft plan up for public feedback. Check it out and let us know your thoughts via our webpage, www.joinindufferin.com/draftrecplan.

In person opportunities to discuss the draft plan with County staff:

 Forward to a Friend



From: [Kim Heaton](#)
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: RE: REMINDER: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:13:35 PM

Hi Caroline.

As always, it was great speaking with you on Tuesday!!!!

Thanks for forwarding the draft of the “New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan” to me. I have had a chance to read it, and first and foremost, I want to congratulate you on how informative, concise and easy to read your plan is. So many times, these plans tend to be long and extensive with a ton of filler, but yours is to the point and gives the reader just the right amount of information. Thanks for doing that!!

The additional comments I have on the plan are as follows:

- The installation of interpretive, directional, distance, and educational signage in both the forest tracts and along the rail trail is a great idea. Individuals like to be informed, whether it is how far they have to go or what they are looking at when they are using trails. Increased signage will positively impact trail usage
- Radio advertising tends to be expensive. Not sure that one gets the bang for their buck using this type of media. I guess there are statistics somewhere for that! To date, paying the few extra dollars for social media advertising has paid off for Mono
- As there are limited areas within the County (and each municipality) where ATV's and dirt bikes are permitted to legally ride, and as this type of use in forest tracts presents numerous challenges to the municipalities and neighbouring landowners, designating the rail trail as a permissible location for this type of recreation to be enjoyed, will be of benefit to all, both the riders and the residents.
- You have indicated that helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the DCF or on the rail trail. How are you going to police this? Per my research, helmets are only required to be

worn by those who are under the age of 18 when travelling on any public road. I can't find any information about trails? Perhaps, for mountain biking it should state "strongly recommended" as opposed to required. (you may get challenged on this.)

- If parking is to be considered for the Mono tract, consultation with Mono Staff and Council is strongly encouraged prior to decision making

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above. Always happy to talk with you.

Wishing you an awesome and active day!!!

TOWN OF MONO

Kimberley Heaton, B.Admin
Director of Recreation
Clerk Designate for Marriage Solemnization

519 941 3599 x227



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From: Caroline Mach <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>

Sent: August 16, 2022 12:34 PM

To: Caroline Mach <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>

Subject: REMINDER: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Carolyn Lane](#)
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:03:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Good morning Caroline,

Thank you. The new plan looks great. I especially like "A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract." I'm still quite concerned about ATVs and dirt bikes using the forest illegally, so much so, that my friends and I have not even been in the Main Tract this year, because of the incidents I reported to you last year. It's just too dangerous... I'm now riding in the York Region (Vivian) Forest because the entire forest is fenced and there are horse friendly, but ATV unfriendly, entrances. There are simply no ATVs in the forest.

All the very best,

Carolyn Lane

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 12:34 PM Caroline Mach <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

REMINDER: Feedback is due by **August 31, 2022** and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan Refresh | Regrow | Recreate Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, Dufferin residents weighed in on what recreation meant to them, and we used those ideas to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Now, we're opening the draft plan up for public feedback. Check it out and let us know your thoughts via our webpage, www.joinindufferin.com/draftrecplan.

In person opportunities to discuss the draft plan with County staff:

Thursday, August 4, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St., Orangeville

Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Museum of Dufferin, 936029 Airport Road at Highway 89, Mulmur

Feedback is due by **August 31, 2022** and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

If you wish to be added to our email notification list so you can keep up to date on the process and other County Forest news, go to <http://eepurl.com/RtadP>.

To submit your comments by mail or email, and for more information, contact me by return email or at 519-941-1114 x 4011 or c/o Museum of Dufferin, 936029 Airport Road, Mulmur, ON L9V 0L3.

Caroline

Caroline Mach, R.P.F. (she/her) | County Forest Manager | Public Works Department | County of Dufferin

519-941-1114 ext. 4011 | forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com | 936029 Airport Rd., Mulmur, ON L9V 0L3 | [sign up for our email newsletter](#)

Usual office hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9-5.

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Carolyn Lane (She/Her), 416.998.6078 (mobile/txt), carolynlane16@gmail.com

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." George Washington Carver

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Draft Rec plan feedback
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:26:19 PM
Attachments: [21285792e1677679c8e62941608aadca_second_round_survey.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello.

Here is some minor feedback on the draft rec plan for Dufferin County Forests. I continue to enjoy using the Main Tract trails regularly!

One more: The names of the Advisory team should be made public so that we could know who they are.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, you submitted your great ideas and we have used these to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Share your feedback on the draft below.

Feedback is due by August 31, 2022 and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

A map of the Rail Trail and County Forest locations within Dufferin County.

PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section (you can write as much as you want)

PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section (you can write as much as you want)

Hello. I am glad to see that the main parking area for the Main Tract will be maintain year round. I have enjoyed using the trails in these past years, rarely meeting anyone in the forest. The trail separation concept appears to be working, I often see horse trailers in the parking area, but it's been a long time since I met a horse on the trail.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

We would appreciate if, in addition to contributing your comments, you would answer a few demographic questions to help us learn a bit more about you.

1. Are you (check all that apply)?

Rail Trail User

Rail Trail Neighbour

County Forest User

County Forest Neighbour

Member of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest

Interested Individual Residing Within Dufferin County

Interested Individual Residing Outside Dufferin County

2. Representation from across the Dufferin community matters, and having a diverse set of experiences, skills, and perspectives guiding conversations and decisions helps us all grow together. With that in mind, do you identify with/belong to the following communities?

Black

Indigenous

Person of Colour

Person with a disability

2SLGBTQIA+

I do not identify with any of the above

I prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

3. Please provide your postal code.

4.

How did you find out about the review?

newspaper

radio

direct email from the County Forest Manager

e-mail newsletter

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

friend or family member

Other (please specify)

5. If you wish to be added to our email notification list so you can keep up to date on the process and other County Forest news, go to <http://eepurl.com/RtadP> or enter your email address below.

6. Please enter your name and email address or phone number if you would like to be entered into the draw for prizes.



Aug 25, 2022

Caroline Mach
Director of Forestry
% Museum of Dufferin
936029 Airport Rd
Mulmur, ON L9V 0L3

Dear Caroline,

My name is Kellee Irwin and I am the President of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTTR). I am passionate about off-road riding and the trail riding community in Ontario both as rider and volunteer.

The OFTR is appreciative that Dufferin County is looking for feedback regarding their most recent outdoor recreation plan. We believe that properly stewarded and well-managed multi-use trail network is a positive for all Ontarian's and promotes a healthy and active lifestyle.

We have reviewed the plan and noted that motorized vehicles may be permitted on the rail trail between Orangeville and Shelburne. This is excellent news to the off-road riding community, and I would like to personally offer my support as well as to offer the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders assistance to you and the County. We have land use agreements for other rail trails in the province and we can send over a land use agreement with the appropriate terms and conditions that will work for all parties involved.

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders prides itself on being stewards of the land, this year we contributed \$198,000 to trails throughout Ontario. Our trail stewards are responsible for trail maintenance, cleaning, bridge building and enforcement in certain areas. We would like to offer that to Dufferin County as well.

It was noticed that Dufferin County is still not permitting motorized vehicles in any of the forest tracks. With other neighbouring counties allowing mixed use it is disappointing that Dufferin County still will not allow their local residents to use their forests.

As I am sure you are aware, the OFTR has very strict regulations about accessing forest tracks throughout the province. All of our members must be insured, legally plated, and must pass our sound regulations which are under 94 dcbl. Our clubs all carry insurance, and we have land use agreements in place. Our local clubs work very closely with local police detachments and by-law officers to ensure the only people using the trails are legally able to be there. We would like to offer that to Dufferin County, in exchange the County offers a legal place for Dufferin County residents to ride their off-road motorcycles.

There has been a stigma attached to the off-road riding community for far too long, our members are lawyers, doctors, trades people, and children. Our largest growing demographic over the past two years have been women and children.

We are optimistic that Dufferin County will reconsider and allow access to the forests, even on a trial basis and limited trails.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I truly believe that we can have an excellent working relationship that will benefit the Dufferin and surrounding communities.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kellee Irwin', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kellee Irwin BBM, FCIP, CRM
President
Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
kellee.irwin@oftr.ca

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Still no access?
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:24:36 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello Carolyn,

I just reviewed the draft plan and noticed that electric motorcycles and regular off road motorcycles are still not getting access to the forests.

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders spent \$198,000 in 2022 helping municipalities and counties with trail maintenance including bridge building and storm cleanup.

All OFTR members including electric motorcycles must be green or blue plated, insured for liability, and have a valid permit.

Residents in Dufferin County still do not have a legal place to ride. The Dufferin Federation of Agriculture has had issues with people illegally riding on private property, giving riders a legal place could diminish this issue.

Currently in the other counties and municipalities that allow motorized vehicles the local clubs steward the trails. This includes enforcement of rules and checking for valid insurance, plates, and permits. Dufferin has their own club that would make that happen.

I am saddened to see that the current plan still prohibits motorized/electric off road vehicles based on a stigma. Off road vehicles have rules and etiquette to follow. We are families, young families at that, just trying to enjoy our sport.

Electric off road motorcycles are quiet so sound would not be an issue. I am unsure why these are being prohibited as well.

Again, all members of the OFTR are insured, plated with the Ministry of Transportation, and insured. This would include electric motorcycles.

I do hope that after public discussion off road motorcycles will be considered. It doesn't seem fair that that the snowmobile clubs are permitted and the off road motorcycle clubs are not. Our bikes are required to have spark arresters as well as be quieter than 94 decibels.

I truly hope things change, over the last two years there has been a lot more residents enjoying riding off road motorcycles and it would be nice for us to have a legal place to ride in Dufferin County. Until then our money gets spent elsewhere.

[REDACTED]